

Where did MRSA come from?

MSRA has caused infections in people for many years. After antibiotics were discovered, these infections could be treated and healed. Then, antibiotics were used too freely, and now many antibiotics do not work to cure MRSA.



What is the treatment for MRSA?

Many MRSA infections can be treated by draining the boil or abscess and do not require antibiotics. **ONLY**

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS SHOULD DRAIN

SORES! Most MRSA infections are treatable with antibiotics by mouth. If the infection is severe, stronger antibiotics may be required, and the infected person may need to be hospitalized to take those antibiotics by intravenous (IV) method.



For more information please contact the
Lexington-Fayette County
Health Department
at 859-231-9791

MRSA: What You Should Know



What is MRSA?

MRSA, which is sometimes called “**Staph**,” is a skin infection that cannot be treated by some antibiotics. It can be a pimple, rash, boil or open wound. It is often misdiagnosed as a spider bite. Symptoms include redness, warmth, swelling, pus, tenderness of the skin, pimples, boils or blisters. Treatment is important to stop the infection from spreading to your blood and bones.

How do MRSA Infections spread?



MRSA lives on skin and can survive on objects for more than 24 hours. Pus or drainage from the infection can spread to other areas of your body or to other people. The cleanest person can get MRSA. It can be found in places where there are crowds of people (schools, jails, etc.). MRSA can rub off one person onto another person during skin-to-skin contact. Sometimes MRSA can come off a person onto a shared object or surface and then get on the skin of the next person who uses it. These shared items can be towels, soap, benches and athletic equipment — in other words anything that someone infected with MRSA touches could carry the bacteria to another person.

How can I prevent getting a MRSA infection?

Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands. Hand washing is very important and can prevent many diseases from spreading. Wash your hands with soap and warm water. Make sure to keep scrapes and cuts clean and dry. Avoid skin contact and sharing personal items such as razors, toothbrushes, towels, etc. with anyone you think may have MRSA. Always clean objects before and after you use them. Towels and clothing that might carry MRSA should be washed.

What should I do if I think I have a skin infection?

If you think you have MRSA or a skin infection, talk to your doctor or healthcare provider. Early treatment can help the infection from getting worse. If you have a bad abscess, your healthcare provider should drain the pus. Do not drain the pus yourself. If you are given medicines, make sure to take all of your pills.



What can I do to keep others from getting MRSA?

Keep the infected area covered with clean dry bandages. Pus from a wound can infect others.



Wash your hands with soap and warm water, especially after changing your bandages or touching the infected area.

Regularly clean the areas where you live. Wash clothes and other items that become soiled with hot water and bleach. Dry clothes in a hot dryer rather than letting them air dry. This helps kill MRSA in clothes.

Tell any healthcare providers who treat you that you have a STAPH/MRSA skin infection.

Risk Factors for MRSA

Close skin to skin contact

Touching contaminated items or surfaces

Crowded living facilities

Openings or cuts in the skin