

# What is MRSA?

Burlington County Health Department



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# What is MRSA?

- MRSA stands for Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*
- It is a skin infection that is resistant to penicillin
- Sometimes called a “staph” infection



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# What does MRSA look like?

- Start out red, swollen
- Have pus or other drainage
- Many think it is a spider bite at first



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# How do you get MRSA?

- Skin to Skin Contact
  - Touching skin infections
  - Touching drainage from skin infections
- Surface to Skin contact
  - Touching unclean sports equipment, keyboards, phones, desktops, doorknobs
  - Sharing personal hygiene items- towels, razors, bar soap



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# Who gets MRSA?

- Anyone can get MRSA
- It is more common among athletes, daycare and school students, and people who have received inpatient medical care



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# How is MRSA treated?

- Healthcare providers can treat MRSA
- Treatment methods include
  - Draining the infection
  - Following basic infection-prevention methods to avoid reinfection in a wound
  - Some antibiotics are able to kill MRSA



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# Stop the Spread of MRSA

**Hand washing is the most effective way to prevent MRSA**

- Wash hands often throughout the day
- Use warm, soapy water and scrub for at least 20 seconds
- Use 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available



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# Stop the Spread of MRSA

- Cover open wounds with clean, dry bandages that stick to skin on all 4 sides
- Don't touch other people's skin lesions or cuts
- Clean and wash sports clothing and equipment after each use
- Report potential skin infections to the school nurse and your doctor



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# For More Information

- Your doctor, nurse, or local health clinic
- Burlington County Health Department
  - (609) 265-5548 or [www.co.burlington.nj.us/health](http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/health)
- New Jersey Department of Health
  - [www.njdoh.gov/health](http://www.njdoh.gov/health)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - [www.cdc.gov/mrsa](http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa)



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