

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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Health Starts Here

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
- New Jersey Department of Health
 - www.njdoh.gov/health
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - www.cdc.gov/mrsa



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