

Fact Sheet

MRSA – (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus)

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MSRA)

Staphylococcus aureus (Staph) is a type of bacteria commonly found on everyone's skin. Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) means it cannot be killed with the antibiotic methicillin

Symptoms

MRSA most commonly affects the skin and may appear as pimples or boils which are often red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage

What are the risks of MRSA?

A simple infection can become very serious if it is caused by MRSA. These bacteria can infect healthy people who have never taken antibiotics. MRSA can't be killed by commonly used antibiotics. Sometimes no antibiotic will work.

How is MRSA spread?

MRSA is mainly found in health care settings; however it is not uncommon for MRSA to be found in public areas such as schools. An infected person can infect someone else by direct contact, such as kissing, sneezing, and close body contact. MRSA is also spread by indirect contact with items that have been touched by people with the bacteria, such as towels shared after bathing and drying off.

Treatment

MRSA is treatable with antibiotics other than methicillin. It is important that individuals who think they have MRSA symptoms immediately contact the community health centre.

How can I prevent MRSA?

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water
- Avoid sharing personal items
- Cover your infected area
- Keep cuts or scrapes clean with soap and water.
- Regularly clean surfaces in your home and workplace with a bleach solution , Some examples include a telephone receiver, door knobs, countertops and desktops.
- Always follow the instructions given by your health care provider when using antibiotics.
- Avoid using antibiotic soaps and cleaners.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact your Community Health Centre or Public Health.