

MRSA Quicksheet

December 2025



Background

MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially dangerous type of staph bacteria. It is resistant to certain antibiotics and can cause many types of infections.

Symptoms

MRSA typically causes skin infections which appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- Red
- Swollen
- Painful
- Warm to the touch
- Full of pus or other drainage
- Accompanied by a fever

In healthcare settings, MRSA can cause:

- Bloodstream infections
- Pneumonia
- Surgical site infections

How MRSA Spreads

MRSA is spread by contact with infected individuals or items that are carrying the bacteria. This includes:

- Sharing personal items such as towels or razors that have touched infected skin
- Touching surfaces or items, such as bandages or athletic equipment, that have been contaminated with MRSA.

Who is at risk

Anyone can get MRSA, but risk increases with activities or places that involve crowding, skin-to-skin contact, and shared equipment/supplies. Athletes, early childhood education centers, school students, and those who receive inpatient medical care are at an increased risk of infection.

Prevention

Maintain good hand and body hygiene, washing often.

Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered until fully healed.

Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

In a high risk environment, clean and disinfect shared items such as toys or mats.

Early identification and care of an infection is key!

What if a person in my facility has MRSA

Typically, unless directed by a physician or public health professional, an individual with MRSA does not have to be excluded from the facility. Follow these tips to keep everyone safe:

- Cover the wounds with clean, dry bandages until healed
- Have the individual follow their healthcare provider's instructions about proper wound care
- Clean everyone's hands often
- Do not share personal items, including clothing
- Wash laundry before use by others
- For early childhood education centers, disinfect equipment after changing diapers or playing with toys

What disinfectants should I use

Disinfectant effective against *Staphylococcus aureus* or staph are also effective against MRSA. Check the products label on the back of the container for a list of germs that it can destroy. Visit the EPA List H for a full list of products effective against MRSA.