



MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)

Parent Resource Template

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DEFINITION

- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (**MRSA**) are bacteria that cause infections in different parts of the body, most commonly the skin. It is more difficult to treat than other strains of staphylococcus because it is resistant to commonly used antibiotics.

SYMPTOMS OF SKIN INFECTION

- Red bumps that progress to pus-filled boils or abscesses that may drain fluid.
- Swollen, painful, red area of the skin that extends beyond the bump or boil.
- Advanced symptoms: fever, tiredness, pain and swelling of the joints or bones.

PREVENTION

- Good hygiene, such as handwashing with soap and water, is one of the best ways to keep from getting an infection.
- Avoid touching other people's wounds or contaminated surfaces.
- Do not share personal items (such as towels and razors).
- Keep cuts and sores clean and covered with a bandage.
- Avoid close skin-to-skin contact.

TREATMENT

- Draining, cleaning, and covering a superficial abscess in the doctor's office may be the only treatment needed. MRSA still responds to certain antibiotics which physicians will prescribe, as necessary.
- Unless directed by a physician, students can attend school if the infected area can be kept covered with a clean, dry bandage.
- If the wound is draining and cannot be covered with a bandage, the student should be kept home from school.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

- Rarely, the infection can spread to deeper tissues, causing a dangerous and painful infection called fasciitis.

CALL YOUR HEALTH PROVIDER

- Treatment is ineffective and/or symptoms appear to be worsening.

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Information compiled from the American Academy of Pediatrics & Centers for Disease Control