



# MRSA

[MRSA](#) refers to Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus - a bacteria that is resistant to many antibiotics. Most MRSA infections are skin infections that may appear as pustules or boils which often are red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. They often first look like spider bites or bumps that are red, swollen, and painful.

Anyone can get MRSA. Infections range from mild to very serious, even life threatening. Treatment for MRSA skin infections may include having a healthcare professional drain the infection and, in some cases, prescribe an antibiotic. Do not attempt to drain the infection yourself – doing so could worsen or spread it to others. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses (even if the infection is getting better), unless your doctor tells you to stop taking it.

MRSA is contagious and can be spread to other people through skin-to-skin contact. The best way to protect against MRSA infections is to frequently wash hands with soap and water, and keep all wounds clean and covered.

