

### 3. Laundry

Wash clothes, towels and sheets in water with laundry detergent at hottest suitable temperature. Add bleach, if desired. Sundry or dry in a dryer at hottest suitable temperature.

### 4. Cleaning

Clean and disinfect high-touch or soiled surface (door knobs, phones frequently). Types of cleaning or disinfecting products include soap and water, diluted bleach.



### Here's what you can do if a MRSA infection is present:

- Use antibiotics only as directed by a healthcare provider
- Keep wounds clean and bandaged until healed.
- Keep hands and skin clean
- Avoid sharing personal items, like towels, washcloths, bar soap and razors even among family members.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces, shared items and equipment per manufacturer's instruction

### Additional information can be found at:

[www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch)  
[www.reducemisuse.org](http://www.reducemisuse.org)  
[www.cdc.gov/drugresistance](http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance)



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# MRSA

## METHICILLIN- RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

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## What is MRSA?

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a type of bacteria that causes “staph” infections, ranging from minor skin infections, pimple-like red bumps or boils, to serious infections, like pneumonia. But MRSA infections can’t be treated with antibiotics commonly used to treat non-resistant “staph” infections. Healthcare providers diagnose MRSA by taking a culture of the infected site.

### Types of Infections Caused by MRSA

Folliculitis	Boil	Osteomyelitis
Cellulitis	Pneumonia	Meningitis
Pimple-like” red bumps		Abscess

## How is MRSA spread?

MRSA usually spreads from person to person through hands or close skin to skin contact. Drainage from an infected wound can spread MRSA to other parts of the body or to other persons. We are all at risk for getting a MRSA infection, because MRSA can live on the skin and survive on some surfaces for prolonged period of time

## How is MRSA treated?

Antibiotics are not always needed to treat MRSA skin infections. Sometimes a healthcare provider only need to open and drain the wound. The wound should be cleaned often and kept covered to prevent spreading the infection.



### Do antibiotics work on MRSA?

When necessary, antibiotics may be used to treat MRSA infections. A healthcare provider should culture the infection to determine which antibiotic will work best.

Remember that antibiotics are “antibacterial,” they do not work on viral infections like cold or flu. It is very important to take antibiotics exactly as prescribed. Don’t save them or share them with other people.

## How can I avoid getting or spreading MRSA?

### 1. Personal hygiene

- Wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Do not share personal items, like towels, bar soap, wash cloths, razors or clothing- even among family members.

### 2. Wound Care:

- Seek care immediately at first signs of infections (red, swollen, painful, warm, draining pus).
- Keep wounds clean and covered with a dry bandage, especially if the wound is draining.
- Follow your healthcare provider’s instructions on proper wound care
- Throw away soiled bandages.
- Avoid contact with other people’s wound or bandages..