

Staph Infections

including

MRSA

What is
a
Staph
infection?

STAPH

Staphylococcus aureus, often referred to simply as “staph,” are bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people.

SYMPTOMS OF STAPH INFECTIONS

The symptoms of a staph infection depends on where the infection is. The staph bacteria can cause:

- **Boils** – an abscess, bump, or swelling within the skin. Also called a furuncle.



- **Cellulitis** – a “flat” skin infection which can make the skin red, painful and warm but does not have pustules.



- **Folliculitis** – an infection of the hair follicles



- **Impetigo** – pustules (bulbous impetigo) or honey colored crusted lesions on the skin
 - May be caused by staph or other bacteria



In addition to skin infections, the staph bacteria can cause:

- **Bacteremia** – a blood infection
- **Deep abscesses** –an abscess that occurs below the skin surface
- **Endocarditis** – an infection on the valves of the heart
- **Food poisoning** – vomiting or diarrhea caused by a staph toxin
- **Lymphadenitis** – an infection of a lymph gland, which causes it to be red, swollen and painful

- **Lymphangitis** – an infection of the lymph channels that drain to lymph glands, causing red streaks in the skin
- **Osteomyelitis** – a bone infection
- **Paronychia** – an infection of the skin folds of the nails
- **Scalded skin syndrome**
- **Septic arthritis** – an infection of a joint, like a hip or a knee
- **Styes** – an infection of the glands on the eyelid
- **Toxic shock syndrome**

The *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria can also cause less common infections such as pneumonia, ear infections, and sinusitis.

To make a definitive diagnosis, and to confirm that staph is the bacteria causing the infection, a culture can be done.

In the past, most serious staph bacterial infections were treated with a type of penicillin class agent such as oxacillin, penicillin, amoxicillin or a cephalosporin.

Over the past 50 years, treatment of these infections has become more difficult because staph bacteria have become resistant to various antimicrobial agents, including the commonly used penicillin class antibiotics.

One of those staph bacteria
that is resistant to some
antibiotics is called

MRSA.

What
is
MRSA?

MRSA

- **MRSA** stands for *Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus*
- **MRSA** are *Staph aureus* bacteria that have become resistant to this antibiotic.

People may be colonized or infected with staph.

Colonization means that the staph is present in or on the body but is not causing illness.

Infection means that the staph is present and is causing illness.



In general, healthy people are at low risk of getting sick with **MRSA**. Some risk factors include:

- Recurrent skin diseases or open wounds
- Long-term illness or long-term dialysis patient
- Illicit injecting drug use
- Surgery

- Been a patient in the hospital or other health care facility within the past year
- Contact with other persons with **MRSA** infection
- Recent antibiotic use
- Live in crowded settings

HOW ARE THESE GERMS SPREAD?

MRSA is transmitted primarily by contact with a person who has an infection or is colonized with the bacteria.

**How can I protect
myself from
becoming infected?**

- **WASH YOUR HANDS**
- If no visible dirt, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Keep cuts and abrasions covered
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds
- Avoid skin-to-skin contact with infected persons
- Do not share personal items
- Clean objects and other shared surfaces before you use them

HOW TO KEEP IT FROM SPREADING TO OTHERS

- Keep infected areas covered
- Follow doctor's instructions
- **Wash hands**
- Put disposable waste in a separate trash bag and close tightly before throwing it out
- Wear gloves

- Do not share personal items
- Disinfect all non-clothing and non-disposable items
- Wash linens and clothes that become soiled
- Wash utensils and dishes in the usual manner
- Avoid participating in contact sports
- If you have a MRSA infection, be sure to tell any health care provider that you have this infection

And now, let's look at what MRSA really looks like...





**POST-OP VASCULAR SURGERY LEG
WOUND INFECTION**

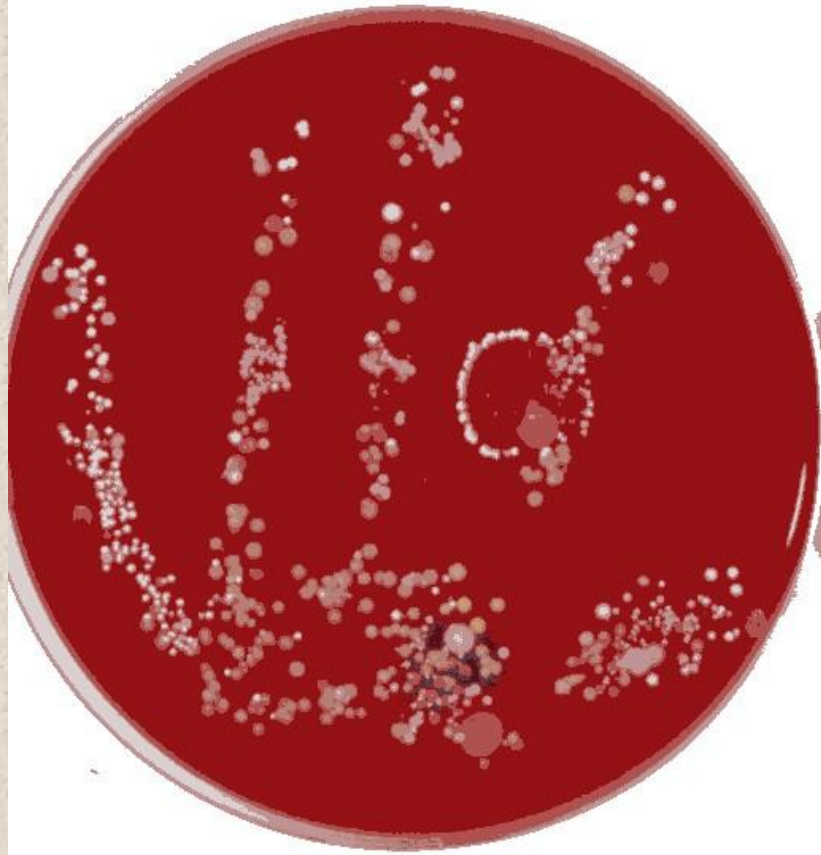




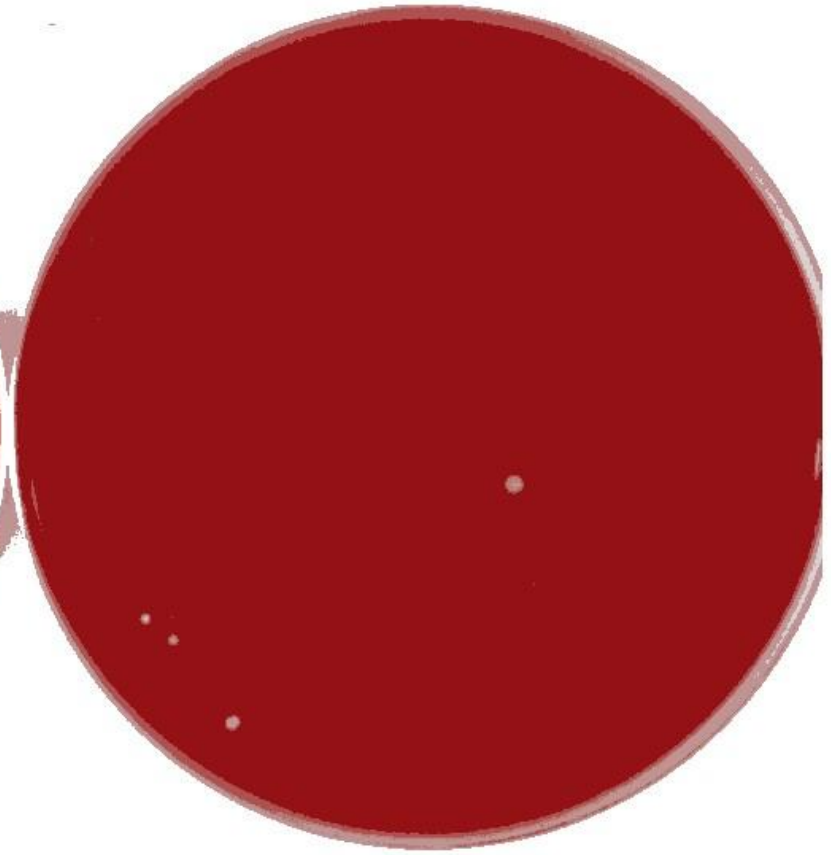




Potentially harmful
microorganisms



Handwashing can
remove Germs!



What is the most
important thing to
remember?

Wash your
hands!!!



It's a fact Jack.
Hand washing is the
best way to prevent
infectious disease.



Thank You