

## **METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS –Fact Sheet (MRSA)**

- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics such as methicillin, penicillin and amoxicillin.
- The majority of MRSA infections occur among patients with weakened immune systems in hospitals and other healthcare settings; however, it is becoming more common in the community setting.
- Staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infections in the U.S.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 25% to 30% of the population carries staph bacteria on their skin or in their nose without an infection.
- Most staph infections are minor and can be easily treated. Treatment may include taking antibiotics or having a doctor drain the infection.
- Staph bacteria, including MRSA, can cause skin infections that look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen and painful, or have pus or other drainage. More serious infections can cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections or surgical wound infections.
- MRSA is almost always spread by direct physical contact with an infected person and not through the air.
- MRSA also can be spread through indirect contact with objects such as towels, sheets, wound dressings, clothes, workout areas and sports equipment that have been contaminated by the infected skin of a person with MRSA or staph bacteria.
- Close skin-to-skin contacts, cuts or abrasions in the skin, contaminated items and surfaces, crowded living conditions and poor hygiene can contribute to the spread of MRSA skin infections
- Good hygiene practices – frequently washing hands, keeping cuts and abrasions clean and covered with bandages until healed, and avoiding contact with other people’s wounds – can help prevent an infection with staph or MRSA.