

Who gets Staph infections?

Anyone can get a Staph infection. People are more likely to get a Staph infection if they have:

- Skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a Staph infection
- Contact with items and surfaces that have Staph on them
- Openings in their skin such as cuts or scrapes
- Crowded living conditions
- Poor hygiene

How serious are Staph infections?

Most Staph skin infections are minor. Most may be easily treated. Staph also may cause more serious infections, such as:

- infections of the bloodstream
- infections of surgical sites
- pneumonia.

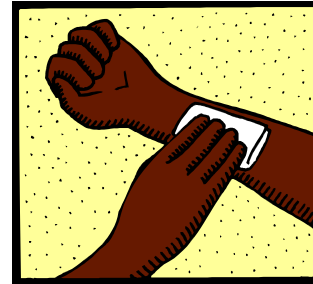
Sometimes, a Staph infection that starts as a skin infection may get worse. It is important to call your doctor if your infection does not get better.

Treatment

Treatment for a Staph skin infection may include taking an antibiotic or having a doctor drain the infection. 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. Do not share antibiotics with other people or save them to use later.

What is Staph or MRSA?

Staph is a type of bacteria. It may cause skin infections that look like boils. Skin infections caused by Staph may be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. Some Staph (known as Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or **MRSA**) are resistant to certain antibiotics. They are harder to treat. The information on this page is for both Staph and MRSA.



Are you a MRSA Carrier?

- Some people carry MRSA in their nose, armpit, or groin.
- This can be found only by testing these areas.
- Have the test done if you:
 - Have had more than one MRSA infection.
 - Have more than one household contact with the infection.
 - Had MRSA in the past and are involved in contact sports, such as football or wrestling.

How do I keep Staph infections from spreading?

- Wash your hands often
- Or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Keep your cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with bandages
- Do not touch other people's cuts or bandages
- Do not share personal items like towels or razors.