

This study tracking book belongs to

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(first name only please)

Please start the study on a Sunday.

This book will give you important hygiene steps you can take to help avoid MRSA. There is also space in this book to track new boils/abscesses and missed school or work for up to a year.

what is MRSA exactly?

The basics

MRSA stands for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. Basically, MRSA is a type of staph bacteria that can't be killed by the antibiotics that usually work for other types of staph bacteria. Many people have staph bacteria on their bodies (especially in their noses), but only about 2% of the population have MRSA bacteria and some people who do have MRSA on their bodies will not get an infection. An infection happens when there are so many of the MRSA bacteria that the body can't keep them under control. People who are more likely to get a MRSA infection are people who have spent time in hospitals or nursing homes, who have weakened immune systems, who are involved in contact sports, and small children (especially if they go to daycare).

How it spreads

MRSA is spread by touching a person who has it on their skin or by touching objects that carry MRSA. That's why it's really important for people with MRSA to keep their skin clean, to clean objects they use, and not to share objects that are likely to carry MRSA.

Frequently asked questions

1 IF I HAVE MRSA, HOW CONTAGIOUS AM I?

If you have symptoms of an active MRSA infection (pain, swelling, boil, abscess, wound draining pus, etc.), you are contagious and you could spread MRSA because the infected area contains many MRSA germs. Keep the area clean and keep the wound covered. If you do not have an active infection, there is still a small risk of spreading MRSA to close contacts such as family members.

2 I HAVE A MRSA INFECTION. SHOULD I GO TO SCHOOL OR WORK?

You should **ONLY** go to school or work IF...

- the infection can be completely covered with a bandage or dressing.
- all wound drainage can be contained all day with only one dressing change at work or school.
- you are willing and able to follow good hand washing and personal hygiene.

Until open wounds are healed...

- do not use whirlpools or swimming pools.
- do not participate in contact sports or other activities in which bandages or dressings may fall off
- do not use playgrounds or bounce houses.

hygiene instructions

Here are some simple ways that you and your family can help prevent the recurrence of MRSA outbreaks. We realize that some things may be out of your control, but the more of these you can do, the better your chances of staying outbreak free.

Keep skin clean

- Take daily showers or baths with soap.
- Clean hands with soap and water or with hand sanitizers when hands are dirty and after each bathroom break or diaper change.

Avoid wounds

- Keep all wounds including cuts and scrapes clean and covered until healed.
- Avoid the dirty bandages or uncovered wounds of other people. If you must help a child with their wounds, wash your hands with soap or use hand sanitizer afterward.

Don't share items that could be contaminated

- Don't share bath towels, wash cloths, clothing, toothbrushes, or razors within the family or with friends.

We realize it may not be practical for everyone to have a separate hand towel in the bathroom so one solution may be to use paper towels.

- Throw away and do not share lotions in jars.

The lotion can be easily contaminated with MRSA when someone puts their hand in the jar. Try to use pump or squeeze bottles instead. If you absolutely must use a jar, start off with a fresh one and never put your hand inside the jar. Instead, use a clean spoon or other tool to get the lotion out. Don't double dip! Clean the tool after every use.

Do laundry regularly

- Wash all towels, wash cloths, sleepwear, underwear, and linens that have been used in hot water with laundry detergent once weekly and dry with hot air in a dryer.

Keep sports and exercise equipment clean

- Encourage athletes or health club members to shower before and after all practices and competitions, and wipe down equipment surfaces before and after use.
- Uniforms and practice jerseys should be washed after each game or practice. Sports equipment should be washed/cleaned weekly.

ugh, another boil!

For 1 year, please track new boils/abscesses and how they are treated. This will help us see if the study tasks have helped you have less outbreaks.

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<input type="checkbox"/> antibiotic _____ | 6 date _____
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no school/work today

For 1 year, please track any days of missed work or school because of your outbreaks. This will help us see if the study tasks have helped you miss less school or work because of outbreaks.

1 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

2 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

3 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

4 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

5 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

6 date _____

- missed school
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7 date _____

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8 date _____

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12 date _____

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13 date _____

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15 date _____

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16 date _____

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- missed work

17 date _____

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- missed work

18 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

19 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

20 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

21 date _____

- missed school
- missed work

22 date _____

- missed school
- missed work



The MEDiC Kit was developed as a part of the MRSA Eradication and Decolonization in Children (MEDiC) study conducted by Dr. Paul Musey, Jr, Dr. Matthew Landman, and Dr. Aaron Carrol. The study team collaborated with the Indiana CTSI's Research Jam team. These materials were developed with guidance by families with experience in MRSA. The goal of the kit is to guide families step by step through best practices for MRSA decolonization using bleach baths and mupirocin swabs. These materials were developed through grant funding to principal investigator Aaron Carroll from (AHRQ - 1R24HS022434-01).