



Gila County
Health & Emergency Management

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Fact Sheet

Background

Staphylococcus aureus, often referred to as staph, is a type of bacteria that commonly causes skin infections. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is staph bacteria that is resistant to common antibiotics (such as amoxicillin, methicillin or penicillin). Staph is frequently found in the nose and on the skin of healthy adults and children without causing illness. Infections may occur when the bacteria penetrate the skin.

Symptoms

MRSA appears as a bump or pimple on the skin that may be red, swollen, painful, warm to the touch, or full of pus/discharge. It may resemble or be mistaken for:

- A spider or bug bite
- An abscess
- A boil
- An infected skin wound



Photo from wedmd.com

Transmission

MRSA is spread by:

- Contact with another person's infection
- Touching contaminated surfaces or items (such as a bandage)
- Sharing personal items (such as bar soap, towels, and razors) that have touched contaminated skin.



Prevention

- Wash your hands often with warm soapy water
- Use 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap & water are not available
- Cover all wounds with a clean, dry bandage until healed
- Avoid contact with another person's skin infections

Treatment

- Know the signs and get treatment early
- Do not attempt to lance or drain the wound on your own
- A healthcare provider will often prescribe an antibiotic and/or drain the infection

For more information

If you need more information, please contact your primary care physician or Gila County Division of Health & Emergency Management at (928) 402-8811.