



# MRSA

*Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*

## What is it?

- *Staphylococcus aureus* are bacteria that commonly live on the skin of healthy people without causing illness
- Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* that have become resistant to a class of antibiotics including Methicillin and Cloxacillin
- MRSA can live on the skin and mucous membranes of adults without causing illness (termed as “colonized”)

## How is it spread?

- Directly from one person to another by contact with someone who is colonized or infected with MRSA (MRSA is most commonly spread by the unclean hands of health care workers)
- Indirectly from contact with contaminated environmental surfaces and patient care equipment

## Where is it found?

- On the skin of people who are colonized or infected
- Inside of the nose and other mucous membranes of colonized or infected people

## Prevention and control

- Use contact precautions (in addition to routine practices) when caring for anyone carrying or suspected of carrying MRSA
- Provide a private room with dedicated toileting facilities for colonized/infected individuals (if a private room is not available, cohort with another MRSA patient/resident)
- Clean hands well and often with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Contain or cover draining wounds
- Wear gloves and gown for entering the patient room in acute care or for direct care of residents in long-term care (must be discarded before leaving the room)
- Dedicate patient/resident equipment or clean and disinfect equipment after each patient/resident use
- Clean and disinfect all high touch and horizontal surfaces in the room daily
- Inform the receiving department and staff involved in transport about the infection control precautions in use
- Ensure appropriate terminal cleaning of the room after discharge
- Discontinue precautions only at the direction of the infection prevention and control team