

**Setting:**

2 guys, C and M, dressed in black– antenna on their heads, clown noses  
M is wearing a black **t-shirt with embossed name:MRSA**; C is wearing a black **t-shirt with embossed name: C. difficile**

M: So Cee, whattya wanna do today?

C: I don't know, MRSA. Whatta you wanna do today?

M: I don't know. Same thing we do every day I guess.

C: What's that?

Together: Try to take over the world.

C: Wait a minute, we've already done that. Look at us. We're "superbugs"  
and nothing can stop us. Look at these headlines we've been getting:

***He pulls out a sheaf of newspaper clippings***

*"Abuse of antibiotics has made drug-resistant superbugs, warn medical experts. "*

We've got doctors and hospitals and health care workers creating deadly  
superbugs all by themselves!!

***He gives a few of the newspaper clippings to M***

M: **Reads:**

*"Hospital superbug concerns doctors as infection rates rise". Another  
one says: "Physicians warn of looming superbug crisis."*

M: I love being a Superbug.

C: Me too. Say, tell me more about yourself.

M: I'm a staph aureus which is a common skin germ or bacteria. All of us  
carry bacteria on parts of our body- for example our gut carries the most  
bacteria and they help digest our food. They are the good bacteria.

But I like being a bad bacteria (I am a superbug, remember!).

MRSA – can live in the nose and peri area and in some wounds.

I'm now resistant to 15 of the 20 antibiotics used to treat infections – only very powerful antibiotics can kill MRSA.

I'm a "hitch hiker" on some residents (we call them "colonized" because MRSA just lives on them but they don't have an infection - they just carry an invisible bug around with them.) Residents can carry it in their nose and peri area and in any open areas or skin openings. Being colonized with MRSA doesn't cause us a problem – we love spreading MRSA to others when hands touch the nose or peri-area with MRSA and then spread it to other places with your hands. Then somebody else can get MRSA, too and be colonized or get infected. Ya ha ha - **evil laugh**

Swabs and screening for MRSA are done because residents often get MRSA in hospitals. Most hospital patients end up on antibiotics so are more likely to have MRSA.

MRSA is not stronger than regular staph aureus but with antibiotics they overgrow on patients like crabgrass. Unless there are visible signs of infection you don't need to treat colonization.

When more and more people get colonized, it causes a high risk problem.

If MRSA becomes an infection it can be very serious for residents!

M: What makes you a superbug?

C: I am a spore forming bacteria or germ. That means I can live in the environment for months and months until someone cleans me away.

I make my way into a person's gut. If I find my way onto hands that are not cleaned – like before lunch – then, in I go - hand to mouth and into the gut!

I love residents who have been on antibiotics up to 6 weeks ago, this gives me a chance to get growing in the bowels and the next thing you know : ooey gooey stinky diarrhea and lots of it.

M: Speaking of ooeygooey... did you know that a study done in nursing homes showed that only 20% of staff washed their hands when they should? Did you know that hand hygiene is the best way of preventing us from spreading ourselves around!

C: Why, no. I did not know that. I hope they don't start washing their hands more.

M: I'm a big bug.

C: You're a 'superbug'

M: I'm invincible.

C: Maybe you're not as invincible as you think you are.

M: **proudly** But I am. Ever since penicillin was discovered sixty years ago, I and my kind have exploded.

C: Oh, sure. You've managed to become resistant to everything they throw at you...

M: Most things! (Except I am scared of a powerful antibiotic called Vancomycin).

Are you scared of anything?

C: I'm scared of handwashing because when people do it properly, rub hard and long enough, I just slide off and go down the drain. Also, when

people wear gloves when looking after someone with *C diff*, and then use alcohol based hand rub, then I just don't get around very easily at all.

Hey, maybe we can make some of the staff sick, if they don't wash their hands or use alcohol hand rub before going home at the end of the day—we'll tag along to their homes and make even more people sick!

M: You're right. If we make all the health care workers sick.....we will take over the world. Unless.....

C: Unless? Unless what?

M: Unless all the health care workers focus on taking care of themselves and their hands as well as the residents and their hands and then if they clean and disinfect better.

C: You mean?

M: **alarmed** Yes, even starting with the simplest of things, like keeping their hands clean and their residents hands clean, we may not be so super.

C: But they wouldn't. They couldn't do that. Look around you. Where's the nearest hand-washing sink? Not nearby, that's for sure! And even if you find one, it just takes forever: first, turn on the water and adjust the temperature so it's not too hot or cold, then wet your hands, then lather up with some soap, then rinse, but don't touch the taps yet—no, no, no!—first dry your hands with a paper towel, and then use the towel to turn off the tap (**delicate pose - being careful to touch the tap with the paper towel only**) and finally, don't forget to apply some hand lotion and let it dry before touching anything. Now imagine doing that 20 times a shift!

M: Whew! I bet you that would take 2 hours out of a 7.5 hour day.

C: Well, that's one reason health care workers don't wash their hands: they're way too busy. But those new alcohol hand rub dispensers are

going up everywhere! If staff just take 15 seconds to pump and rub **wink eye and show some suggestive but non-obscene body language** some alcohol for each resident encounter – it could kill bugs like us. Or, if a resident has diarrhea and they wear gloves and then remove the gloves and use the alcohol based hand rub right away, then, we're both in trouble!

M: **strike a thoughtful pose** Hmmm, pump and rub alcohol for each resident encounter, but wear gloves and pump and rub for diarrhea. They just won't get it. I will continue to spread myself around to my heart's content.

C: We are invincible because we're just too darn hard to conquer.

M: **cocky** Ain't we just? I know what I'm going to do tonight. I'm going to get myself on to some staff gloves when they do their rounds- don't change those gloves when going resident to resident- I'll just tag along and spread myself around. Then the resident can touch their nose with a dirty hand and there I go!

C: Yes! I think I'll work my way into a resident who's just back from the hospital after hip surgery and develops loose stools or diarrhea. I'll hide on the unclean commode until another resident uses me. Then he can take me to lunch on his hands and – whoops - I'm into his gut! With lunch. It's a perfect opportunity to loosen up someone's bowels- take a fast exit out the you know what and spread myself around some more.

M: Do you remember the time that I infected the nurse who had a tiny cut on her finger. She didn't know it is important to make sure the skin on your hands is intact- especially during winter. Hands can get all cracked and dry unless people look after them.

Hey what's that?

***During this speech M has wandered around to discover an ABHR dispenser on the table***

C: I don't know...what is it?

M: ***Reading Alcohol Hand Rub dispenser***

C: So what? That looks like just another hand cleaner.

M: But this stuff has got 70% alcohol in it and you know what happens to me around alcohol...it just takes over, I can't help myself, I just soak it up and it destroys me. ....I'm doomed. Alcohol can wipe me out. Kill me dead.

***Looks at sign*** What does this say? Hmmmmmmmm. It's reminding everyone to wash their hands or use Alcohol hand rub.

C: ***alarmed*** Look there's another dispenser over there and another one over there.

M: I'm doomed. Alcohol hand rub is everywhere.

C: Then we are both doomed. If every health care worker and staff member in this facility uses alcohol hand rub or [gloves and hand rub for diarrhea](#) then we'll be stopped.

M: And this new dispenser makes it more accessible and easy for visitors and staff alike to use alcohol based hand rub.

C: ***trying it out*** Squirt, Swirl, Switch and Scub until dry. Hey pretty simple. Hmmmmmmmm, nice on the skin, rubs in easily, and ***sniffing*** smells really dangerous!

M: ***concerned*** Hey, get that stuff away from me.....you know it'll wipe me out.....I'm melting? Drowning? Done!

**Both fall down dead!**

**The End**