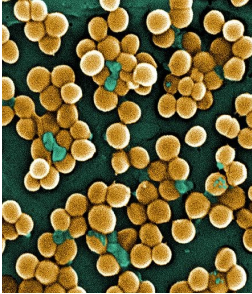


# MRSA (Meticillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*)



## What is MRSA?

*Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) lives harmlessly on the skin and in the nose and throat of about 1/3 of people.

MRSA is a variation of *S. aureus* and is resistant to several types of antibiotics.

## How is MRSA spread?

In the environment in dust if cleaning is inadequate.

From person-to-person by direct skin contact.

From contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment.

To the next person on hands that have not been washed thoroughly.

## MRSA colonisation

People can carry MRSA and not become unwell.

The bacteria remains on skin, in the nose or in wounds, where it has established colonisation.

This may be a long term condition and isolation is not required in a care home.

## Stop the spread of MRSA

Effective hand hygiene is the single most effective action to reduce the spread of MRSA.

## Suppression treatment

Reduces the number of MRSA bacteria to a less harmful level.

If MRSA is in a wound then the wound needs to be included in the suppression treatment.

At the end of the treatment, swabs to check for MRSA clearance are not usually required.

## MRSA infection

MRSA may enter the body and cause an infection, such as wound infections, pneumonia, urinary tract infections and SEPSIS.

Signs of infection include fever, redness, pain and increased wound discharge.

Isolation is required when an infection is present.

Further information can be found at [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/mrsa-policy-for-care-home-settings/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/mrsa-policy-for-care-home-settings/)