

# A CHILD'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MRSA: A WELL-INFORMED MOM.



MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially dangerous type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and may cause skin and other infections. Staph, including MRSA, is usually spread by having direct contact with someone else's infected area. When treated early, MRSA skin infections usually get better.

To protect yourself and your family from MRSA, keep hands and skin clean, cover cuts and scrapes, and avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

## What are the signs and symptoms of an MRSA skin infection?

MRSA and other staph skin infections appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- > Red
- > Swollen
- > Painful
- > Warm to the touch
- > Full of pus or other drainage
- > Accompanied by a fever

If you or someone in your family experiences these signs and symptoms, cover the area with a bandage and contact your healthcare professional. This is especially important if MRSA signs and symptoms are accompanied by a fever.



**For more information, please call  
1-800-CDC-INFO or visit [www.cdc.gov/MRSA](http://www.cdc.gov/MRSA).**