

Hand hygiene is key to infection prevention

How to wash your hands:

- Apply alcohol based hand rub
or
- Wet hands with water
- Apply soap
- Rub hands together for 15 seconds
- Rinse hands well
- Dry hands with paper towel
- Turn off tap with used paper towel

Thank you for your help and cooperation

2.4.1

This fact sheet provides basic general information only and is to be used as a quick guide, not as a complete resource on the subject. If you have any further questions, ask your physician, local health unit or health care professional.

This information was obtained from the following source:

Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (2013). *Screening, testing and surveillance for antibiotic-resistant organisms (AROs)*.

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
Infection Prevention and Control Department
201 Georgian Drive
Barrie, ON, L4M 6M2
Phone: (705) 728-9090 ext 44550
Fax: (705) 792-3312



Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)



Patient/Visitor Information

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Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus is a germ that lives on human skin, it can also live in the nose and rectal area. This germ can change and become resistant to an antibiotic called methicillin. The name for this germ is methicillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus*. The short form is MRSA.

What does colonization with MRSA mean?

A test has shown that the germ, MRSA, is living on your body. At this time it is not making you ill, but you may develop an infection later.

What does an infection with MRSA mean?

It means the MRSA germs growing on your body are causing signs of infection like fever, swelling, redness and pus. The infection may make you feel unwell.

What happens now?

A. Special Precautions

will be used to prevent the spread to others

- you may be in a private room
- you may be asked to stay in your room
- staff caring for you will wear gowns, gloves and possibly a mask/eye protection
- if you go to another part of the hospital, the same precautions will be used
- precautions will continue until the MRSA is no longer present

B. Testing

Swabs will be taken to show:

- where MRSA is growing

Can I still have visitors?

Yes, but they will have to take precautions if helping to care for you. They will be asked to wear a gown, gloves, and possibly a mask/eye protection. They must wash their hands well before leaving the room.

How can I help?

- Remind everyone to wash their hands before they leave the room.
- Remember to wash your hands well: before eating, after going to the wash-room, and before leaving your room.
- If you go to a doctor, another hospital or return here, be sure to tell the staff that you were on special precautions for MRSA.

What happens when I go home?

If you are having nursing care at home, the care providers may continue with special precautions because they are caring for other patients too.

Good HANDWASHING is always important to prevent the spread of germs.



**Wash hands frequently with
soap and water**