Information for residents, friends and families

Precautions for clients, friends and families

Wash your hands with soap and water or with alcohol hand rub before leaving the room.

Why do staff members sometimes wear gloves and a gown?

Staff members must wear gloves and a gown when providing hygiene care because they are in close contact with the bare skin of the infected person.

The most effective way to prevent MRSA transmission is to wash your hands frequently.

For further information, please contact the resident’s nurse or the unit’s head nurse.

Arghyll Hospital and Residential Centre
375, Argyll Street
Sherbrooke (Québec) J1J 3H5
Telephone: 819 780-2222

D’Youville Hospital and Residential Centre
1036, Belvédère South Street
Sherbrooke (Québec) J1H 4C4
Telephone: 819 780-2222

St-Joseph Residential Centre
611, blvd. Queen-Victoria North
Sherbrooke (Québec) J1H 3R6
Telephone: 819 780-2222

St-Vincent Residential Centre
300, King East Street
Sherbrooke (Québec) J1G 1B1
Telephone: 819 780-2222

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For more information

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What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus is a bacterium which has developed a strain which is resistant to certain antibiotics. This strain is known as MRSA - Methillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.

In healthcare institutions, in addition to normal practices, further precautions are taken to prevent the transmission of this bacterium and to avoid infectious outbreaks.

Many people interact in a living environment such as ours, which is limited in space. The measures implemented aim to prevent the transmission of MRSA bacteria while taking into account the quality of life of the carrier.

Risk factors

The risk factors which increase the likelihood of individuals becoming carriers or infected by MRSA are:
- Broken skin (i.e. wound);
- Presence of invasive equipment (i.e. urinary catheter, intravenous line);
- Frequent or long-term consumption of antibiotics;
- Weakened immune system;
- Chronic disease.

Did you know that...?

- The risk of developing a severe MRSA infection among carriers is much greater in hospitals than in long-term care institutions. It is not common for MRSA carriers to transmit the bacterium to a roommate in long-term care institutions. The contaminated hands of care providers constitute the main vehicle of transmission. The most effective method to prevent MRSA transmission is to wash your hands.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Can an infected person leave his room? Can he participate in social activities?

Yes. The person must wash his hands before leaving his room. The person may walk freely in the institution and even eat in the cafeteria. MRSA carriers should not be excluded from social activities.

Is it necessary for the infected person to be in a private room?

No. He may have a roommate who does not have a significant risk of developing the infection.

Can the clothes and bed sheets of an MRSA carrier be washed with those of non-carriers?

Yes. The heat and mechanical action of the washing and drying cycles eliminate the bacteria. There is no risk of contaminating another person’s clothes. Wash your hands before handling clean clothes and after handling dirty clothes.

Should any precautions be taken for the dishware used by a contaminated person?

No. No measure is necessary for dishware and utensils.

Can I get MRSA if I enter the room of an infected person and touch objects in his environment?

The surface of objects in the environment do not play a significant role in MRSA transmission; however, any medical equipment in the room is intended for the client and comes into contact with him.

Can I get MRSA if I kiss or hug a person who has MRSA?

No. The person is dressed and his clothes cover the areas that pose the greatest risk. People who have MRSA are just like us and need human contact. You can show them affection.