What is MRSA?

MRSA is a bacteria that is hard to kill with some medicines. It is a type of bacteria called *Staphylococcus aureus*, but this one doesn't get killed by an antibiotic called methicillin, and many other antibiotics do not work either.

Signs you might have MRSA

1 The staphylococcus bacteria can cause a red, swollen bump or spot that hurts or looks like a spider bite or has pus.

2 You can't tell if it is MRSA bacteria just by looking at it. It is important to see a health care person so the infection doesn't get worse.

3 The health care person may swab the sore and send the sample to be tested.

How to take care of MRSA

A doctor or nurse may need to clean out the wound—don't try to do it yourself

Don't share things like razors, washcloths or towels

Don't poke or squeeze the wound

Wash your hands

Keep it covered with clean, dry bandages until it gets better

Use ceremony and cultural practices to stay healthy

How to prevent MRSA

Wash clothes, sheets, and towels with laundry detergent and dry in a dryer

Keep up with vaccinations, including the flu shot

Wash your hands after touching dirty clothes or bandages

Only take antibiotics if your doctor gives them to you

Keep things clean at home, like door handles, light switches, and phones

Clean your body regularly, especially after exercise

What to expect if you visit a hospital

It is important to tell health care providers if you have ever had an MRSA infection. People who may have MRSA are put into a private room if they go to the hospital. The hospital staff may wear gowns and gloves in the room to help keep the bacteria from spreading to other people in the hospital. If you have questions about your hospital care, please speak with your doctor or nurse.

If you or someone at home gets a skin infection that doesn't get better or gets worse, go to the doctor or nurse.

For more information, visit **bccdc.ca**

Questions?

Insert local health centre/nursing station info here: