

CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET **STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS**

Staphylococcus aureus, often referred to simply as “staph,” are bacteria commonly carried on the skin, intestines or in the nose of healthy people. Occasionally, staph can cause an infection; staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infections in the United States

Symptoms

- Staphylococcus aureus can invade any organ of the body.
- Localized disease includes boils, pimples and sores.
- Toxic Shock Syndrome is caused by this bacterium.

Transmission

- Staph bacteria and Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) can spread among people having close contact with infected people.
- MRSA is almost always spread by direct physical contact, and not through the air.
- Spread may also occur through indirect contact by touching objects (i.e., towels, sheets, wound dressings, clothes, workout areas, sports equipment) contaminated by the infected skin of a person with MRSA or staph bacteria.

Treatment

- Most staph bacteria and MRSA are susceptible to several antibiotics.
- Furthermore, most staph skin infections can be treated without antibiotics by draining the sore.
- However, if antibiotics are prescribed, patients should complete the full course and call their doctors if the infection does not get better.
- Patients who are only colonized with staph bacteria or MRSA usually do not need treatment.

Prevention

Practice good hygiene

1. Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water
2. Keep cuts and abrasions clean and covered with a proper dressing (e.g., bandage) until healed
3. Avoid contact with other people’s wounds or material contaminated from wounds

All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

www.cdinfo.com

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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