

CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET **STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS**

Symptoms

Staphylococcus aureus, often referred to simply as “staph,” are bacteria commonly carried on the skin 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. Most of these infections are minor (such as pimples and boils) and most can be treated without antibiotics.

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

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

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Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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