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Staphylococcus aureus (staph) is a very common germ. About one out of every three people have the germ on their skin or in their nose. This germ does not cause problems for most people. MRSA is a type of staph that can be resistant to several antibiotics. Anyone can get a MRSA infection or carry MRSA. The risk increases for people with hospitalizations or nursing home stays, skin-to-skin contact with others (such as in contact sports), and exposure to crowded and unhygienic places. The symptoms of an S. aureus infection, including MRSA, depend on the part of the body that is infected. Broken skin, such as scrapes or cuts, is often the site of a MRSA infection. Most S. aureus skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that might be: You cannot tell by looking at the skin if it's a MRSA infection. People sometimes confuse some MRSA skin infections with a spider bite. However, unless you actually see the spider, the irritation is likely not a spider bite. Contact your healthcare provider, especially if the symptoms include a fever or do not improve within 48 hours. Do not pick at or pop the bump or sore. Cover the area with clean, dry bandages until you can see a healthcare provider. Clean your hands often. MRSA infections can cause serious problems in and outside of healthcare settings, including: Although anyone can get MRSA, some groups have a higher risk:

MRSA spreads in the community through contact with infected people, wounds, or things that have touched infected skin and are carrying the bacteria. Some people who carry MRSA can go on to get a MRSA infection. You can reduce your risk of MRSA infections and help prevent their spread. A healthcare provider must send a clinical

specimen to a laboratory to determine if MRSA is the cause of an infection. Healthcare providers often prescribe antibiotics to treat MRSA infections. Some types of *S. aureus* infections need surgery to drain infected areas. Your healthcare provider will determine which treatments are best for you. While MRSA can be resistant to several antibiotics, meaning these drugs cannot cure the infections, there are antibiotics available to treat MRSA infections. MRSA is a germ that is resistant to some antibiotics. It can spread in hospitals, other healthcare facilities, and in the community. Languages Language Assistance Languages Language Assistance

