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PLEASE READ NOTICE CONCERNING CONTROL & PREVENTION OF STAPH INFECTIONS

Staphylococcal infections are caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* (boil/soft tissue infection) and some may develop resistance to antibiotics (methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus-MRSA*). Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) stat 25-35% of people have staph on their body (armpits, groin, genital area & nose) and there is no illness.

Most infections occur when there is direct contact with staph bacteria from the body, razors, towels, clothing, bed linens, and a break in the skin (cut or scrape). The bacteria are **NOT** carried through the air and are not found in dirt or mud.

- **HANDWASHING IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BEHAVIOR IN PREVENTING INFECTIOUS DISEASE!!!!**
- Keep your hands away from you nose & groin.
- Carry & use alcohol-based sanitizer when soap/water is not available.
- **DO NOT** share razors, towels, anything that touches the body.
- Wash items (towels, uniforms, clothes, bed linens) that contact the body after each contact with ordinary detergent in **HOT** water and dry on the **HOTTEST** cycle if there is a diagnosed MRSA infection. Wash these items separate from other laundry.
- Cover wounds, abrasions and cuts.
- Use isopropyl alcohol to clean reusable items.
- All items that come in contact with a MRSA wound must be disinfected with a fresh (prepared daily) solution of one tablespoon of household bleach to one quart of water or a phenol-containing product such as Lysol or Pine-sol. Use a phenol-containing spray to disinfect any cloth or upholstered surface.
- Place all disposable material that has come in contact with the MRSA wound in a plastic bag.
- Follow all instructions physician/practitioner gives you.
- **Do not** take antibiotics to **prevent** an infection.
- Do **NOT** share ointments or antibiotics.

Texas Department of Health

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/ideas/factsht/factsht.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/ARESIST/mrsa.htm>