



Public Health Educators, RIDOC
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Incarcerated populations may be more susceptible to MRSA infections due to conditions such as:

Overcrowding

Higher prevalence of mental illness, hindering efforts to improve hygiene

Injection drug use

Immune system suppression

Greater prevalence of MRSA colonization in those within facilities

MRSA Infection



What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus), also known as **staph**, is a common bacterium found on the skin and in the noses of up to 30% of healthy people in the United States. These people are called "carriers." They usually do not know that they carry the bacterium and never get sick from it.

The bacteria are harmless unless they penetrate the body's natural barrier's to cause infection. Staph can cause a wide range of infections that affect the body, both internally and externally, and are **the most common cause of soft tissue infections in the U.S.** Staph can occasionally spread rapidly into the

bloodstream **and if left untreated, can cause death.**

TREATMENT may include:
Drainage of lesions by medical staff.

Antibiotic therapy

Proper wound care and coverage.

Inmate education about wound care.

Steps to prevent transmission

Routine Screening for infections

Inmates should access medical care for "spider bites", boils, rashes or bumps on the skin.

Proper Hygiene

Encouraging inmates to shower regularly, especially after working out or playing sports.

Sending clothing and bed linens to laundry where heat from hot water and dryers can kill bacteria which may be on clothing.

Not sharing personal hygiene items such as towels, razors, or soap.

WASHING HANDS FREQUENTLY

Cleaning living quarters and work out areas with proper cleaning solutions after use.