MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus) Bacteremia: Rate per 1000 patient days

What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus (Staph) is a type of bacteria that is commonly found on the skin and in the noses of healthy people. Many of us periodically carry *Staphylococcus aureus* without any symptoms or illness (a.k.a. colonization). However, *Staphylococcus aureus* can enter the body through a break in skin, a cut or abrasion which can then lead to an infection.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a form of *Staphylococcus aureus* that is resistant to certain antibiotics, making this type of bacteria harder to treat.

What are the symptoms of MRSA infection?

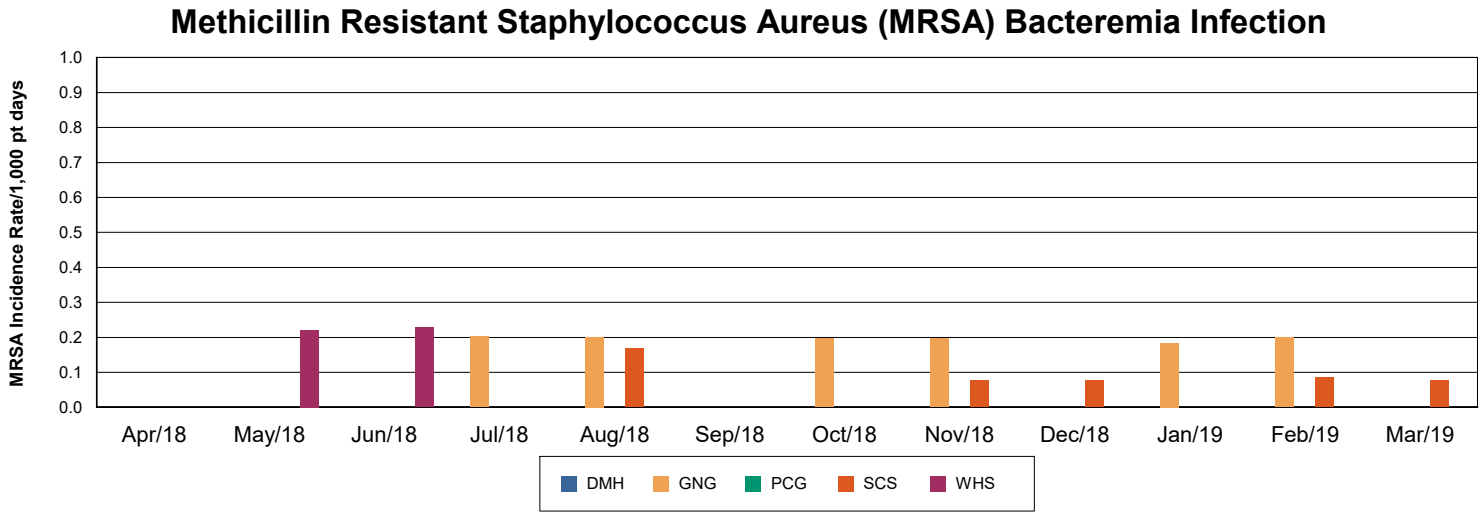
These bacteria can cause skin infections (e.g. boils, pimples) to serious life-threatening complications such as infection in the blood (bacteremia), bones and/or lungs (e.g. pneumonia).

How does MRSA spread in a health care setting?

MRSA bacteria is commonly picked up by hands through skin-to-skin contact with someone colonized/infected with MRSA, or through contact with objects contaminated with bacteria. MRSA is known to survive on hands and surfaces for hours to days. MRSA can then be spread by contaminated hands and objects, if not properly cleaned and disinfected.

MRSA bacteremia Indicator

Niagara Health monitors the trend of healthcare-associated *MRSA* bacteremia cases (expressed in rate/1000 patient days) and recommends strategies to prevent and control the spread of infection.



	2018/19											
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
DMH	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
GNG	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.203	0.201	0.000	0.196	0.197	0.000	0.184	0.199	0.000
PCG	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
SCS	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.167	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.084	0.076
WHS	0.000	0.220	0.229	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000