

Notice on Community-Associated MRSA Infections 10/23/2007

As many of you are aware there has been increased public awareness of MRSA or methicillin resistant staph aureus (staph infection that is resistant to certain antibiotics) outside of healthcare facilities during the past several weeks. These infections are most common in health care facilities and associated with individuals who have weakened immune systems. However, there are strains traditionally associated with transmission in the community which are now being identified with increased frequency. With this in mind, it is important to reinforce some basic procedures when working with patients or fellow students in our clinical classes.

These infections are transmitted by skin to skin contact and/or contact with objects that have the staph on them. If you notice any skin lesion (on yourself or your patient/fellow student) that is similar to pimples or a boil please have a faculty member look at it and/or seek medical treatment. This infection can be treated but it is vital that if contacted it is treated quickly and not spread. If we all take care in maintaining good hygiene the risks of contracting this infection in our instructional setting are low.

Please be sure to follow these procedures during our clinical classes or when working with patients.

- Wash you hands often (before and after class) after washing use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- If you have cuts or scrapes keep them clean and covered.
- Do not touch other peoples cuts or bandages
- Do not share towels
- Carefully clean tables before and after class

For additional information I encourage you to go to the CDC web site and explore their information at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca.html

You can have some basic questions answered at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html#6

If you have additional questions please use your internet skills by placing MRSA into you search tools.