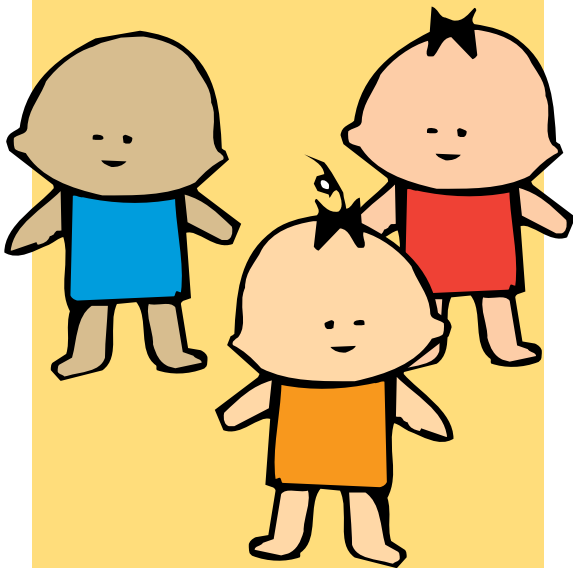


Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)



ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL CENTER

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What is MRSA?

- Staphylococcus aureus is a bacterium normally found on the skin of more than 30% of healthy people.
- MRSA is a form of Staphylococcus aureus resistant to the more commonly used antibiotics.
- People who have MRSA on their skin with no signs of infections are called carriers.
- In general, in healthy newborn babies who are carriers of MRSA, the bacteria disappear without treatment within 4 to 6 weeks.
- Infections caused by MRSA are **treatable** and usually **minor** such as skin infections, eye infections (conjunctivitis) and infections of the umbilical area.
- A medical consultation is not necessary if there are no apparent signs of infection.

How is MRSA spread?

MRSA is usually spread from person to person through contact with the hands or by touching contaminated surfaces. This is why **hand washing** is so important.

Should I be worried about my baby?

Usually, MRSA in newborns disappears without treatment within 4 to 6 weeks and rarely results in infection or illness. The chance for a newborn to be a carrier after three months is very small. Being a carrier does **NOT** mean that your baby will have more frequent or more serious types of infections.

Things to remember

- Wash your hands often.
- Seek medical attention for your baby if he/she shows signs of an infection.
- If your baby needs to be cared for in a hospital, please inform the hospital staff that your baby was born at St. Mary's Hospital Center during a period of increased MRSA.

For more information

Please call St. Mary's info-line at **1 866 727-9511** or **514 734-2790**, Monday to Friday, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Or send an e-mail at **infoparentschsm@ssss.gouv.qc.ca**

(Please enclose the mother's maiden name, the sex and date of birth of your baby, as well as your phone number.)

Consult St. Mary's website at **www.smhc.qc.ca**

You may also consult your pediatrician or your family doctor.