What is MRSA?

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- **MRSA is a germ that lives on the skin and in the nose.**
- **An untreated MRSA infection can become very serious.**

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MRSA usually starts as a bump on the skin.

It can be red, full of pus, warm, painful, or swollen, and may look like a spider bite.

If you have a skin sore:

- Contact a nurse or doctor right away.
- Don't touch or pop the sore.
- Don't touch the pus or drain it yourself.
- Cover the sore with a bandage.

How does MRSA spread?

- MRSA spreads when people touch infected skin, pus, or surfaces where it is present.
- Surfaces include personal items, such as razors, clothing, towels, and bedsheets.
- Surfaces include things commonly used by everybody, such as doorknobs and gym equipment.
- MRSA can spread by tattooing done by inmates.

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