



What to do about MRSA

for
Law Enforcement

What is MRSA?

(Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*)

- Type of “super bug”
- Often causes skin infections
- Resistant to many antibiotics, including penicillin

How is MRSA Treated?

By a healthcare provider who may:

- Drain the infection *and/or*
- Give you an antibiotic *and/or*
- Help you reduce the amount of bacteria on your skin

What does it look like?

- A “spider bite”
- Infected skin
- Boil
- Abscess
- Impetigo



Stop the Spread of MRSA!

- **Wash your hands often** with warm, soapy water
- **Use 60% alcohol-base hand gel** when soap and water are not available
- **Wash hands or gel after every contact/arrest**
- Avoid contact with other people’s skin infections—they should be covered with clean, dry bandages
- Use disposable gloves if potential for infection & wash hands or gel after each use
- **Clean & Disinfect:** Clean first to remove visible dirt/drainage from security devices or vehicle interior, then disinfect (wipe down) with an EPA registered cleaner*
- Always use gloves to clean & disinfect
- Launder “contaminated” clothes with soap and warm water, dry in hot dryer



How do you get MRSA?

- Touching the MRSA-infected skin of someone
- Touching surfaces that have MRSA on them
- Sharing personal hygiene items (bar soap, towels, razors)
- Not having resources to keep clean
- Not having resources for care
- Overusing antibiotics, stopping them early or missing doses

* Website: epa.gov/oppad001/chemregindex.htm