



STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS FACT SHEET

WHAT IS STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS?

Staphylococcus Aureus is a type of bacteria. Anyone can develop a staph infection, although certain groups of people are at greater risk, including people with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cancer, vascular disease, eczema, and lung disease.

HOW DO YOU GET STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS?

Spreads by having direct contact with an infected person, contact with a contaminated object, or by inhaling infected droplets dispersed by sneezing or coughing. This bacteria is most often spread to others by contaminated hands.

SYMPTOMS

These infections can look like pimples, boils, or other skin conditions. Sometimes staph bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause serious infections, including: bacteremia, pneumonia, endocarditis (infection of the heart valves), and osteomyelitis (bone infection).

TREATMENT

There are drugs available to treat Staphylococcus Aureus. Discuss treatment options with your doctor.

PREVENTION

- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or materials contaminated from wounds, such as bandages.
- Use of appropriate infection control practices, such as wearing gloves before and after contact with infectious body substances.
- Wash hands often with soap and water.

DGHD EFFORTS

Reports of suspected and confirmed cases of disease are made to the Delaware General Health District (DGHD). The DGHD investigates potential sources of illness, conducts surveillance for the spread of disease, and engages in community outreach and education.