

# MRSA

# Reporting Information

*Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus*

## Individual Cases

Individual cases of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections are **not** reportable to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Reportable diseases are generally diseases that are rare or unusual (such as malaria) or that, as individual diseases, may constitute a potential public health threat (such as tuberculosis or measles).

Infections caused by staphylococci, including MRSA, are common and have been widely circulating in the state for some time. Because MRSA is widespread, requiring individual providers and hospitals to provide case reports on individual cases of staphylococcal infection would quickly overwhelm resources, as well as strain local providers with reporting. This could possibly inhibit reporting and follow-up of more crucial public health concerns. Therefore, individual case reports of MRSA are **not** required.

It is important to note that the law (**19 CSR 20-20.020**, Reporting Communicable, Environmental and Occupational Diseases) mandates that “any unusual expression of illness in a group of individuals which may be of public health concern is reportable and shall be reported to the local health department, local health authority or the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) by the quickest means”. This simply means that outbreaks of all infections, whether or not they are included in the list of **reportable** conditions, are reportable. This means **outbreaks** caused by MRSA **are** reportable.

In addition, when concerns are raised about problems in communities, the local and state health departments in Missouri investigate and offer recommendations for control measures.

## Hospitals

Hospitals are required to report quarterly combined data on MRSA infections that occur in the hospital from specific sites monitored by that hospital (**19 CSR 20-20.020**). This data is not identified by hospital and is only used along with test data on antibiotics from laboratories throughout the state to provide the DHSS information to monitor resistance trends in facilities, regionally and statewide. This information is used internally and by law is not made public.