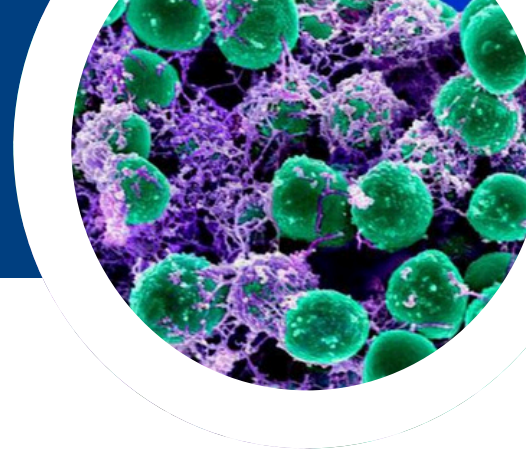


# STAPH & MRSA

## GUIDANCE FOR INTERIM HOUSING PROVIDERS



***Staphylococcus aureus* (Staph)** is a common type of bacteria. The CDC estimates that about 30% of people have Staph on their skin or in their nose, usually without any problems.

People experiencing homelessness may be more likely to get Staph infections because of substandard living conditions and limited access to healthcare.

Most Staph infections are mild and don't need special treatment. However, people at higher risk—like those who are homeless—should be referred to a healthcare provider when infections occur.

**Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)** is a type of Staph that is resistant to many common antibiotics. People experiencing homelessness may be more likely to have MRSA than the general population.

### RESPONDING TO A SUSPECTED SKIN INFECTION



**Avoid direct contact with rashes or broken skin.** Use gloves if you need to touch skin or personal items like clothing.



**Cover the area:** Use clothing if the skin is closed, or a bandage if the skin is open.



**Refer to medical provider** based on your facility's protocol.



**Do not try to diagnose the rash.** Many different illnesses can cause skin rashes. Any concerning rash, especially with broken skin or that looks like a spider bite, should be seen by a medical provider.



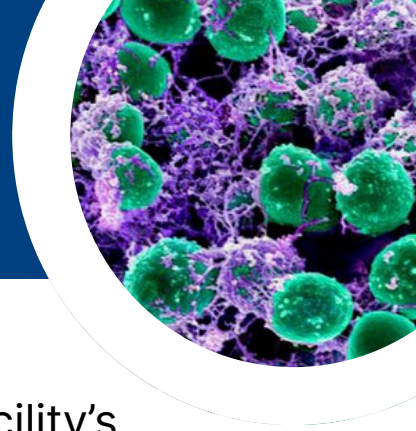
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Public Health**

Revised July 2025

# STAPH & MRSA

## 9 STEPS TO PREVENT SPREAD



- 1 Keep bandages, masks, gloves, gowns, and other PPE available as needed by your facility's protocol.
- 2 Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- 3 Wear gloves when handling people or their belongings.
- 4 Encourage daily hygiene like bathing and washing clothes.
- 5 Do not share personal items like razors, brushes, soap, or towels.
- 6 Discourage going barefoot to prevent skin injuries.
- 7 Clean surfaces and equipment daily using EPA-approved disinfectants.
- 8 Create a facility protocol for addressing noncompliance using a team approach. Facility may exercise its discretion in determining the appropriate course of action.
- 9 Contact Public Health for guidance. Email [communityoutbreak@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:communityoutbreak@ph.lacounty.gov).

