

Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (MRSA and VRE)

Call your child's regular doctor if your child:

- Has a temperature of 100.4°F (38.0°C) or higher.
- Has more pain, redness or swelling around the infected area.
- Has drainage or a bad smell coming from the infected area.
- Has bad diarrhea.

An antibiotic resistant organism is a germ (bacteria) that is not killed by the usual medicines (antibiotics). If an infection occurs from one of these germs, a stronger medicine may be needed to treat the infection. MRSA and VRE are two examples of resistant bacteria.

MRSA

- Staphylococcus (staf-ih-loh-KOK-us) aureus (OR-e-us) or "staph" are common bacteria that normally live on the skin. These bacteria can also live harmlessly in the nasal passages.
- Methicillin (meth-uh-SILL-un) resistant Staphylococcus (staf-ih-loh-KOK-us) aureus (OR-e-us) is a germ that causes bad infections. It is also called MRSA.
- Most staph infections occur in people with weak immune systems, usually patients in the hospital. Over the past few years, however, MRSA has been seen more in the community. Many of these infections have occurred in athletes who share equipment or personal items (such as towels) and in children in daycare facilities.
- Staph skin infections normally cause a red, swollen and painful area on the skin. Other symptoms may include the area being very warm and leaking fluid. Your child may have a fever.

VRE

- Enterococcus (EN-ter-oh-KOCK-us) is a type of germ (bacteria) that lives in the intestines. Most of the time this germ does not cause an infection.
- Vancomycin (van-ko-MY-sin) resistant enterococcus is a germ that causes bad infections in the urinary tract, in wounds, or in the blood. It is also called VRE.
- Most VRE infections occur in people with weak immune systems, usually patients in the hospital.
- A VRE infection can cause a red, swollen and painful area on the skin. Other symptoms may include the area being very warm and fluid leaking. Your child may also have a fever, nausea, and vomiting.

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While Your Child is in the Hospital

- We want to prevent the spread of the germ to others.
- Your child will be placed on Contact Precautions while in the hospital to prevent the spread of infection. Contact Precautions means hospital staff will wear gowns and gloves when coming into your child's hospital room. Contact Precautions will be used until the germ is completely gone. A precautions cart with supplies will be available outside your child's room. An instruction sign is used to alert staff of the precautions.
- Hand washing decreases the spread of germs. All hospital staff entering and leaving your child's room will wash their hands or use alcohol foam.
- It is recommended that your child stay in his or her hospital room as much as possible. If your child needs to leave the room, your child's nurse or doctor will tell you what needs to be done. You and your child should not touch any other children that are in the hospital.
- Your child can have visitors. Usually family members are not asked to wear a gown and gloves. If a family member is helping with care, he or she may be asked to wear a gown and gloves. **It is very important that all visitors wash their hands or use alcohol foam before leaving your child's room.**

What You Can Do to Help at Home

- ✓ It is still very important to wash hands well to keep from spreading the infection to others after going home.
- ✓ Keep any cuts covered with a bandage until they are healed. Follow any further instructions you are given by your nurse or doctor for the care of any cuts or wounds.
- ✓ Always give your child medicine as directed by the doctor. If you think it is not helping your child or if you feel your child is having side effects, call your child's doctor. If you are giving antibiotics, make sure your child takes them until they are all gone or until you were told to stop the medicine, even if he or she feels better. If your child refuses to take the medicine because of taste call the doctor for help.

For General Health Information and Resources:

Call or visit the [Family Resource Center](#), a free health information library on the 3rd floor of the hospital. Call 314.454.2350, email at frc@bjc.org, or check out the FREE [St. Louis Children's Hospital Kid Care App](#).

