

# MRSA

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# STAPH

# 101



[www.sfcityclinic.org](http://www.sfcityclinic.org)



[www.stopaids.org](http://www.stopaids.org)

# MRSA/Staph 101

What is MRSA/Staph?

Staph is a type of bacteria that usually causes rashes and sores on the skin. MRSA (pronounced "MER-SAH") is one type of Staph that might need special treatment.

How is MRSA/Staph spread?

MRSA/Staph is spread when your skin touches the skin of someone else with MRSA/Staph. It is also spread if your skin touches something that has MRSA/Staph on it.

Is MRSA/Staph an STD?

We know that skin-to-skin contact during sex can spread MRSA. Whether sex itself - oral, anal, or vaginal - can spread MRSA, we don't know.

Are guys who are gay, bi, queer, or same-gender loving, or guys who have sex with other guys, more likely to get MRSA/Staph?

We think so, though we don't know exactly why. We do know that **anyone can get MRSA/Staph. MRSA/Staph is not a "gay" disease.**

Are poz guys more likely to get MRSA/Staph?

Anyone with a weakened immune system, including poz guys, might be more likely to get MRSA/Staph and to have more serious problems with it. But it's important to know that **anyone can get and have serious problems with MRSA/Staph.**

What problems can MRSA/Staph cause?

The skin can become red, warm, swollen, and painful. There may be yellow fluid. It can look like a "spider bite." It can also cause fever and chills.

Can MRSA/Staph be treated?

Yes, there are many ways that MRSA/Staph can be treated. It is best to treat it as soon as possible.

What should I do if I think I have MRSA/Staph?

See your doctor, who might test your rash/sore for MRSA/Staph. If you don't have a doctor, call 415.206.5166 to find out where you should go.

How can I protect myself from MRSA/Staph?

Just like always:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and bandaged until healed.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, razors, sex toys.

**Where can I get more information?** Check out [www.mrsasf.com](http://www.mrsasf.com) or call 415.554.2830.