

Checklist: Staphylococcus “Staph” Infection

Check for any of the following signs that he or she is at increased risk for a “staph” infection:

- Picks or scratches skin or pokes finger in nose frequently
- Resists hand washing or requires staff assistance
- Resides with persons who have had staph infections
- Has been treated with antibiotics for other infections (for example, pneumonia, kidney)
- Has a skin rash or eczema
- Has had a previous staph infection
- Has a medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, or immune deficiency



Check to see whether this person washes his or her hands independently.

If the person does not, check if there is a caregiver to assist.

Check whether caregivers follow policy and wash their hands before and after caring for individuals in their charge

Hand washing is one of the most important measures in the defense against infection. If the individual is unable to wash independently, then the caregivers must be diligent in helping the individual to wash hands. Hand sanitizers are also helpful in decreasing infection.

	<input type="checkbox"/> Check to see whether the home has separate towel racks for each person and/or uses disposal towels.	<p>It is very important that towels be laundered regularly and that people do not share towels or other personal items like razors.</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check to see whether he or she showers or bathes at regular intervals.	<p>Total body skin hygiene and cleanliness decreases the risk of infection. If there are signs of a change suggesting infection, such as redness or swelling noted at time of showering, then the caregiver should schedule an appointment with the physician.</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check to see whether there is a regular schedule for laundering clothing, bed linens, and towels.	<p>Laundering personal linens with hot water and a hot dryer prevents the spread of staph bacteria.</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check to see whether there is a protocol and schedule for cleaning sinks, tubs, showers, counter surfaces.	<p>Keep frequently touched surfaces clean such as sinks, showers, tubs, door knobs, handles, and counter tops. Use a 10% bleach solution to clean surfaces.</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check to see whether, if the person requires assistance for bathing and dressing, there is staff assigned to check the status of his or her skin daily.	<p>Skin scrapes, cuts, and wounds should be covered by a clean bandage. Staph infection can begin as a break in the skin, a small pimple, or a larger area of redness and/or swelling. Early identification and treatment is important to diminish progression of the infection and to diminish side effects. If initially the skin lesion is minor, the person or caregiver should check it daily. On recheck, if the area is larger, redder or painful, a physician should evaluate it promptly.</p>

	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check to see whether sport shoes and socks are laundered frequently. Observe how the person is dressed at the time of the questionnaire.</p>	<p>It is easy for feet to become scaly and moist, and caregivers often miss foot infections because feet are covered. Feet are also at risk for repeat infection. Foot care and proper clean foot wear is important, especially for persons who have had previous skin infections or who have medical conditions representing a risk for infection.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check to see whether the person has a MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) infection at this time as diagnosed by a physician.</p>	<p>If Yes, are the following in place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed medication • Sore or wound is covered by dry bandage • Limitation of direct contact with other house or family members • Documentation that infection is improving • Appropriate plan in place for skin care and hygiene by designated and trained staff or family member • Physician's recommendation for return to work or school • Scheduled physician follow-up appointment

Unclear or concerned about an answer? Please consult with your clinical staff for appropriate follow-up