

# The Great Western News

December 2007

## MRSA : The Facts



Mr. Janitor Says:  
There has been much discussion as well as some misinformation regarding MRSA. For the benefit of our customers and friends, we thought we should discuss the facts about MRSA one more time.



MRSA, Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics such as methicillin as well as more common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin. Normal staph bacteria, *Staphylococcus aureus*, are one of the most common causes of skin infection and are also a common cause of pneumonia, surgical wound infections, and bloodstream infections. About 30% of the population may carry staph bacteria with little or no ill effects; while about 1% of the population carries MRSA. Most MRSA infections are skin infections that occur at sites of visible skin trauma such as cuts and abrasions. MRSA infections are treatable. A person with a suspected MRSA infection should see a healthcare professional for treatment. If left untreated, MRSA infections can lead to serious complications.

MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or by direct contact with an item or surface that has come into contact with someone else's infection.

Practicing good hygiene is the best way to personally prevent contracting a MRSA infection. Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Keep any cuts and scrapes you have clean and covered with a bandage until healed. Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages, and avoid sharing items such as towels or razors.

To help control MRSA within your facility, use an EPA registered disinfectant with a MRSA kill claim to clean and disinfect restrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms along with exercise equipment, wrestling mats and other "high-touch" surfaces. Here at Great Western, we carry many different disinfectant cleaners to handle your disinfecting and cleaning needs. We will have one to fit your specific needs.

To make your cleaning and disinfecting jobs safer for your employees, more effective, faster and more economical, Great Western offers the *Kaivac No-Touch Cleaning System*. The *Kaivac No-Touch Cleaning System* lets you clean without ever touching the surfaces being cleaned. The *No-Touch Cleaning* revolution is changing the face of the cleaning industry. Designed for maximum removal of soils, bacteria and other contaminants, *No-Touch Cleaning* combines automatic chemical metering and injection, an indoor pressure washer and a powerful wet vacuum into an integrated system. Empowering workers to deep clean and disinfect without ever having to touch soiled, contaminated surfaces, it not only cleans better, but also cuts labor, chemical and equipment costs while raising worker morale and image.

Contact us at Great Western to set-up a demonstration of the *Kaivac NO-Touch Cleaning System* to see for yourself the benefits of this system. Give us a call at our Davenport office at 563/445-6644 or at our Cedar Rapids office at 319/395-0445.

Please Note: Great Western offices will be closed on Friday, December 14 for inventory. We will be making our regularly scheduled deliveries that day, but our offices will be closed as we take our annual inventory.

To celebrate the Christmas and New Year holidays, Great Western will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, Wednesday, December 26 and Tuesday, January 1.

Thank you and have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!