If I have tested positive for MRSA, are my family members at risk?

The risk is low that a healthy person will get MRSA. To reduce the risk, the most important thing everyone in your home can do is to clean their hands.

Laundry and cleaning of your house may be carried out as usual.

Tips to stay safe

• Ask your health care provider to clean their hands before providing care.

• Clean your hands before you eat and after you use the washroom.

• Cover your cough and sneezes using a tissue or your sleeve.

• Ask visitors to stay home if they are feeling unwell.

Learn more at:

www.tsh.to

Contact Infection Prevention and Control:

Phone: 416-438-2911, ext. 6682

Email: ipacinfo@tsh.to
What is MRSA?
Staphylococcus aureus is a common bacteria found on our skin. Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that is more resistant to antibiotic treatment.

While these germs are usually harmless, they may cause infections that could be passed on to others.

What are the symptoms of MRSA?
MRSA infections may cause fevers, pain, swelling, or discharge from an infected wound.

Some individuals can have MRSA on their skin without showing any symptoms. This is called being colonized with MRSA. Treatment is usually not required for people colonized with MRSA.

What is the treatment for MRSA?
MRSA infections can be treated with strong antibiotics.

To be effective, the antibiotics must be taken to completion.

Who is at risk of MRSA?
People most at risk are those who:
• have wounds;
• are elderly;
• have a prolonged hospital stay;
• have been treated with certain antibiotics.

How does MRSA spread?
MRSA can spread through direct contact with a patient who is known to have MRSA, or by contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment.

What happens if you have MRSA?
If you have MRSA, you will be moved to a private room and your health care providers will use additional precautions to prevent the spread of MRSA to other patients.

A sign saying “Contact Precautions” will be placed on your door. This sign reminds all staff and visitors to wear a gown and gloves before entering your room.

How can you prevent the spread of MRSA?
Wash your hands frequently with either soap and water, or hand sanitizer.

If you have MRSA, wear a clean hospital gown and wash your hands prior to leaving your hospital room.