

# STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

*MRSA bacteria,  
under microscope*

Antibiotic-resistant staph infections are more common and much deadlier than previously believed, causing about 94,000 life-threatening infections and 19,000 deaths in the U.S. in 2005.

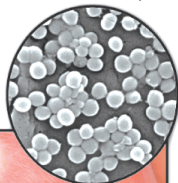
## Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus

- Resistant to penicillin-related antibiotics; can be treated with other drugs, but health officials fear resistance to those, too
- Bacteria lives on skin or in nose; can be carried by healthy people

## Prevention and treatment

- Keep wounds covered, dry and clean
- Avoid sharing personal items
- Consult doctor at first sign of infection

Source: Journal of the American Medical Association, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**Skin infection**

**Red, swollen  
and painful**

**Pus or other  
discharge**

- Bacteria enters skin through cut or small break
- Spread by skin-to-skin contact
- More severe if bacteria enters bloodstream

McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE