



# Background and Activities

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## BACKGROUND

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a type of bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics including methicillin and other more common antibiotics. Staph infections, including MRSA, occur most frequently among persons in hospitals and healthcare facilities such as nursing homes and dialysis centers. However recently, such infections have been identified in otherwise healthy people who have not been recently hospitalized or had a medical procedure and are known as community-associated (CA)-MRSA infections.

MRSA is becoming more prevalent in community and health care settings. According to CDC data, the proportion of infections that are antimicrobial resistant has been growing. In 1974, MRSA infections accounted for two percent of the total number of staph infections; in 1995 it was 22%; in 2004 it was 63%.

**The Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA), in partnership with the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences, the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department for Public Health and Health Care Excel of Kentucky are launching a statewide MRSA Collaborative aimed at increasing knowledge regarding identification, treatment and containment of MRSA.** The Collaborative will utilize current best practices, national experts, and easily accessible Web-based tools to educate health care providers as well as members of other disciplines.

## MRSA COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

**KHA is asking that every Kentucky hospital sign a commitment to participate in the Kentucky MRSA Collaborative.** As part of that commitment, hospitals are being asked to take a number of actions in an effort to improve identification, treatment and containment of MRSA in our communities. MRSA Collaborative participants will:

- Sign a commitment letter and identify a team leader designated to serve as the contact person for your facility and lead MRSA improvement efforts
- Participate in the Hospital MRSA Survey being distributed on October 1
- Implement key components of the Kentucky MRSA Toolkit (available in December) including:
  - Utilize online education tools
  - Implement competency checklists
  - Update infection control policies
  - Provide education materials for patients and families
  - Educate about antimicrobial stewardship
- Participate in data collection to support analysis of improvement. (KHA is investigating the Centers for Disease Control National Healthcare Safety Network program which is free and provides data protection.)



# Leadership Commitment

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For \_\_\_\_\_ (Hospital Name)  
Reducing the incidence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is an important strategic clinical initiative for our hospital. To facilitate these efforts, we will participate in the Kentucky MRSA Collaborative. As the Chief Executive Officer of our hospital and the identified senior leader of our infection control improvement team, We understand that we will play an active part by supporting the work of the team during this collaborative. We are committed to providing the resources necessary for our hospital to successfully redesign or initiate processes that can reduce the incidence and transmission of MRSA infections to our patients, to implement best practices and to take steps to ensure compliance among all health care and support staff.

The members of our infection control improvement team are:

CEO: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Lead: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinical Champion \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CEO Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Lead Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date