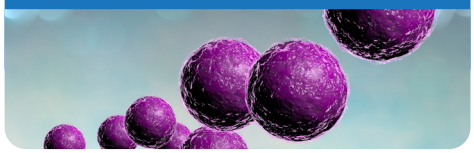
Skin Infections From Body Art

Guidance for body artists and shop owners



Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of staphylococcal bacteria that can cause skin infections. It can spread through contact with infected skin, contaminated surfaces or equipment.



KNOW THE SIGNS OF A SKIN INFECTION

- Bumps, rashes or open sores
- Redness or swelling
- Pain or skin that feels warm to the touch
- Drainage
- Fever









BODY ARTISTS: PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR CLIENTS

- Stay home if you have an active skin infection, rash, sores, drainage, or an illness that can spread to others.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often in a sink used for handwashing only.
- Sterilize equipment correctly. Meet temperature, pressure, and run-time requirements. Follow manufacturer instructions and protect sterile items during storage.
- Clean and disinfect required surfaces before and after every client. Use an EPA-registered disinfectant effective against MRSA. Keep surfaces wet for the full time listed on the label.
- Use approved inks, tools, and equipment. Never reuse single-use items or ink between clients. Remove damaged equipment.
- Dilute ink only with sterile or distilled water dispensed from an unopened, single-use container.
- Prepare the client's skin with an appropriate antiseptic. Apply the antiseptic from the center outward and allow the full required contact time.
- Explain aftercare and provide written instructions. Answer client questions and consider following up a few days later.
- Follow Southern Nevada Health District body-art regulations.

SHOP OWNERS: SUPPORT SAFE PRACTICES

- Train artists regularly. Review infection prevention procedures, maintain policies that meet body-art regulations, and address unsafe practices promptly.
- Maintain handwashing sinks. Keep them working, accessible, stocked and used only for handwashing.
- Maintain sterilization equipment. Document problems and steps taken to correct them.
- Provide appropriate supplies. Keep skin antiseptics, disinfectants and infection prevention resources available.
- Maintain and enforce an employee health policy. Make sure staff know when to report illness, stop work and return to work.
- Review and update your Infection Control Plan.
- Check for recalls of tattoo inks and other supplies.
- Routinely observe body artists and implement corrective actions if unsafe practices are identified.

THINK YOU MAY HAVE A SKIN INFECTION?



Contact a healthcare provider promptly for evaluation and treatment.



Do not squeeze, pick, or pop bumps or sores.



Artists should not work until fully recovered and cleared according to workplace policy.

To report three or more suspected cases, **call 702-759-1300 or scan the QR code.**

Questions or guidance:
SNHD_EHOutbreakSupport@snhd.org | bodyart@snhd.org

SNHD Southern Nevada Health District