

Could I be a carrier of hospital bacteria?

We do everything possible to prevent the spread of bacteria and viruses in our hospital. In order to check whether you are unknowingly carrying bacteria or viruses, we would like to ask you to answer the questions below.

If you answer one or more of the questions below with "Yes", please contact the nursing department or the outpatient clinic where you are being treated before coming in for an appointment. If necessary, we will take precautionary measures. For example, you may be treated in a separate room. Please call us if you have any further questions.

1. Are you a carrier of hospital bacteria (such as MRSA, VRE, Acinetobacter, MRGNS or ESBL)?
2. Do you live with someone or are you a caregiver to someone who is a carrier of the MRSA bacteria?
3. In the past two months, have you been admitted at another Dutch hospital and was there an outbreak of hospital bacteria in that department?
4. In the past two months, have you been in a foreign hospital or foreign health care institution for admission, examination or treatment?
5. Do you live or work at a business location where there are pigs, veal calves or poultry?
6. In the past two months, have you lived in a shelter or institution for refugees?
7. In the past two weeks, have you visited a COVID-19 orange or red area (according to travel advice of the Dutch government)? If the answer is yes:
 - What was the departure date?
 - Which country/ region?

More about hospital bacteria

What are hospital bacteria?

Hospital bacteria are bacteria that are difficult to fight with antibiotics. Healthy people may be carriers of bacteria without having any symptoms. But for people with lowered resistance, such as those in a hospital, contamination with bacteria can be dangerous. The best-known hospital bacterium is called MRSA. This is an abbreviation of *Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*. But there are also other bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. We do not want these bacteria to spread in the hospital either.

How does contamination with hospital bacteria occur?

Contamination with hospital bacteria usually occurs through direct skin contact, frequently by hands. Sometimes bacteria can enter the air through skin flakes or sneezing, thereby causing contamination.

Where does contamination with hospital bacteria occur?

Contamination can occur anywhere, but there are certain locations where there is more risk of contamination. Many foreign hospitals have problems with hospital bacteria. There have also been indications of these bacteria being found in various animals and these animals then transmitting the bacteria to humans. This can occur especially in pigs, calves and poultry (such as broilers).

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