

MRSA Infections among Persons Receiving Tattoos

To: Rutland Area Health Care Providers, Hospitals, and Ambulatory Care Centers

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The Vermont Department of Health has been informed of three people with skin infections due to methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). All three reported receiving tattoos from an unlicensed tattooist prior to the onset of their infections. The persons receiving the tattoos, as well as the unlicensed tattooist, are all from Rutland County.

As a result, health care providers in the Rutland area are being advised to:

- Question persons with skin infections as to whether they have recently received a tattoo. **Note that MRSA-associated infections can occur at the tattoo site or elsewhere on the body.**
- If persons report a recent history of receiving a tattoo or if there is evidence of a tattoo, consider MRSA as the etiological agent, obtain specimens for culture and treat appropriately.
- If you suspect your patient has a tattoo-associated MRSA infection, report this to the Vermont Department of Health by calling 1-800-640-4374.

For more information on MRSA, please visit our website at <http://healthvermont.gov>

For questions related to this Advisory please 802 863-7240 [800-640-4374 in Vermont].