

Information on MRSA testing

– for students coming to work or train in the Danish health care system

The resistant bacterium MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) is prevalent in most countries but remains rare in Denmark. The Danish Health Authority requires all health care workers coming to Denmark for employment or training to be screened for MRSA. By identifying and treating MRSA-positive health care workers, the risk of MRSA transmission in hospitals and other health care institutions is reduced.

Before leaving your home country

Screening for MRSA must be performed in your home country. The screening result must be written in English and presented to your clinical instructor on an official form or letterhead. Failure to do so may result in you being denied participation in clinical practice. You must be tested within 14 days before your arrival in Denmark. Students from Nordic countries* only need testing if they have been in wards with an MRSA outbreak or have had known contact to MRSA-positive individuals.

Make sure you are swabbed from

- Nose
- Throat
- Any eczema or wounds, if present

If the test from your home country confirms MRSA, you are required to undergo treatment either in your home country or immediately after your arrival in Denmark.

*Denmark, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland

Screening in Denmark

All exchange students will also be tested shortly after their arrival in Denmark. An appointment for screening will be arranged on your behalf if you are a student from University College Copenhagen (Københavns Professionshøjskole). Other exchange students must book their own appointment. The screening will be performed at a Department of Infectious Disease.

The test is free of charge for exchange students. Please inform the nurse taking the swabs of your name, date of birth, educational program, country of origin, address of placement, and the period of your upcoming clinical training.

Before the test, you must present your Letter of acceptance, so be sure to bring it.

You will receive your test result by returning to the Department of Infectious Diseases 3-4 days after testing.

Treatment for MRSA carriage

If your test confirms MRSA, you are obliged to be treated. The treatment is free of charge and usually takes 5 days. The treatment consists of a nasal ointment with antibiotics, disinfection soap and thorough cleaning of the place you stay. Contact the local MRSA team to start the treatment. Untreated you are not allowed to continue your clinical training in Denmark.

Starting clinical training

Please note that hand hygiene is the most important part of infection control. Persons with MRSA are not allowed to have contact with patients before having received instructions on hand hygiene and standard precautions for infection control from the clinical instructor.

All new staff must pass a hand hygiene course which must be taken with the clinical instructor and documented. If you have negative MRSA test from your home country, you are allowed to start your clinical training immediately. While waiting for the results of the Danish MRSA test, you are allowed to have patient contact when you have received instructions on hand hygiene. You will have to work under the supervision of your clinical instructor. You are obliged to show the test result to the clinical instructor.

Standard precautions for infection control

QR code for an overview of standard precautions for infection control.



Who to contact to book a screening appointment

- Herlev Hospital 38 68 42 09/38 68 34 52
- Hvidovre Hospital 38 62 29 32
- Nordsjællands Hospital 48 29 39 70

Who to contact if your test confirms MRSA

- Department of Clinical Microbiology, Herlev Hospital 38 68 38 50
(covers Herlev, Gentofte and Nordsjællands Hospitals)
- MRSA Knowledge Center, Hvidovre Hospital 38 62 24 29
(covers Hvidovre, Amager, Bispebjerg and Bornholm Hospitals and Rigshospitalet)

When you return to your home country

Contact your local international coordinator and ask for specific regulations related to your institution.