

# Vital signs™ CDC

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Staph infections can kill

Vital Signs – March 2019

- How to prevent a deadly staph infection. Who is at risk?
- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph) can cause serious infections if it gets into the blood and can lead to sepsis or death.
- Your risk for these serious staph infections increases when you have surgery, stay in a healthcare facility...
- ...have a medical device (like an IV) in your body, inject drugs, or come in close contact with someone else with staph.
- U.S. hospitals have successfully reduced staph infections but progress is slowing. And staph may be on the rise in communities.
- More than 119,000 bloodstream staph infections occurred in 2017.
- Nearly 20,000 people died with bloodstream staph infections in 2017.
- More prevention is needed to stop staph infections and their spread. What can healthcare providers and the public do?
- Find answers at [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns)