

I've been told I have been in contact with someone with a multi-resistant bacteria

ISLHD Infection Management and Control Service

What are multi-resistant bacteria?

When people have an antibiotic resistant bacteria this means that the bacteria has become resistant to some antibiotics. If they get an infection the doctor may have fewer choices of antibiotic to use to treat it.

Sometimes, when you are in hospital, you could have contact with a person with one of these bacteria by sharing a room with them or using the same toilet.

What happens now?

We will take a swab that is sent to the lab. The lab will check if the bacteria you have had contact with is in the swab. It will take a few days to get the result.

What if the test is positive and I have the bacteria you are looking for?

If the swab is positive your doctor will tell you, and we will make a record of this in your medical record.

When you are in hospital

- Staff will clean their hands before and after touching you.
- They will wear an apron.
- In some wards you might be moved to a single room. If this happens you can leave your room if you feel well enough, but please don't visit other patients.
- We will ask you to clean your hands often and especially before leaving your room and when returning to your room.
- You can continue to have visitors and have as much contact with them as you like eg: hug and kiss your children.

When you are at home

- You do not need to do anything special or different.
- You can share things like plates, cups, sheets and towels as normal.
- You can continue to visit and be visited by friends and family.
- You are free to go wherever you want to go.

ISLHD Infection Management and Control Service can be contacted by phone on **02 4222 5898** or emailed on IMACS@health.nsw.gov.au if you need more information about multi-resistant bacteria.

The Health Care Interpreter Service provides a free and confidential interpreting service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For bookings please call **Phone: 4223 8540**.

If you need an interpreter please tell your service provider immediately and they can book one for you in your preferred language.