

Environmental Sampling for Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) in Fire Stations

MRSA is a bacterium that is resistant to common antibiotics. MRSA is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact with an active infection or by contact with contaminated shared items and surfaces. The risk of disease to fire service professionals is not known. The University of Washington Field Group is starting a project to investigate MRSA in Fire Stations.



The goals of the project are to:

1. Collect environmental surface samples in fire stations and vehicles,
2. Better understand the presence and distribution of MRSA, and
3. Help reduce exposure risk factors in fire stations.

What does a fire station have to do to participate?



- Send a letter to the Field Group requesting a sampling kit
- Complete a short survey
- Collect 20 swab samples from different locations in the fire station
- Mail the samples back to UW Field Group in a pre-paid box

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