



## Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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### **Outbreak of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* of Local Origin, Uruguay**

From 1 January to 28 July 2004, there have been reports from Montevideo on a strain of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* of community origin that has affected 417 people, among which 80% were topical infections where the patients were treated on an ambulatory basis. For the same period, four deaths have been reported.

Two major outbreaks have occurred, the first in the Casabó district at the end of February, where methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* was documented in the community, and the second in the Santín Carlos Rossi psychiatric facility at the beginning of July. Both outbreaks are under control.

Since October 2002, the Ministry of Health has instituted a series of measures aimed at prevention, surveillance, detection, investigation and intervention of emerging antimicrobial resistance, targeted at both health workers and the community, through the Epidemiological Surveillance Area and the Department of Public Health Laboratory. As a result of this new outbreak, the Ministry of Health has issued materials to orient the medical community on specific prevention and treatment measures.

**Source:** *Ministry of Health of Uruguay.*