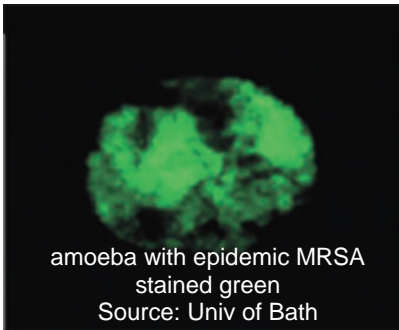


New Study: Amoebae foster and help disperse MRSA

Study suggests airborne spread of MRSA

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A new study has serious implications for infection control workers who are fighting to stop the spread of MRSA. Researchers say they've found that MRSA infects and replicates inside an amoeba species called *Acanthamoeba polyphaga*. This species is prevalent in the environment and is found in air, soil and water as well as on inanimate objects typically found in your home.

Once inside the amoeba, MRSA replicates and can be shed by amoebal cysts. Researchers are concerned because these cysts, especially when dry, can become airborne and could spread MRSA. The study is the first to suggest an airborne route as a source for MRSA.

Researchers say MRSA replication within amoebas can make the pathogen more virulent and less resistant to antibiotics.

A link to the University of Bath's overview of the study is [available here](#).

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