

The Connection™ Marvin's View

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STAPH INFECTIONS RAMPANT

Today's lead story in the [Chicago Tribune](#) is of critical importance to everyone in our industry. It cites a report from the Association of Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology that 1.2 million hospital patients a year are infected with MRSA (methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus) and that 48,000 to 119,000 are dying from the infection. This report also highlights the critical role of Housekeeping.



APIC is hoping that this survey will be a wake-up call to health care workers across America but it also reinforces the importance of janitors and our industry in schools, correctional facilities, offices, hotels, industrial plants, etc.

In our recent, five part "It's Time" series, we emphasized that the first goal is effective cleaning and the importance of Germicides in that process. For the past 20 years many departments have been cutting back on labor. Sanitation is the foundation for good health and this study shows that it may be time to revisit staffing levels with your administration.

Most important, this is a good time to get an up to date review from Hal Temkin, our resident expert in the area of Germicidal cleaning practices. As many of you know, Hal is devoted to and has written extensively on the subject. Since today's report is from APIC I thought you might want to read one of Hal's previous articles in their prestigious publication, [Infection Control Today](#). In a few days we will be passing on Hal's current thoughts on the subject.

MRSA is a challenge and demonstrates the critical importance of your department.

PortionPac Chemical Corporation

Marvin Klein

email: mklein@portionpaccorp.com