



# The Silver Bullet

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## Silver ions (Ag<sup>1+</sup>) are unique among sanitizers because they

- kill all medically relevant strains of bacteria, fungi and viruses.
- quickly kill 99.999 percent of organisms in those strains.
- do not allow mutants to survive and produce resistant strains.
- continue to disinfect surfaces long after initial application.
- are safe for people, plants and animals.
- are colorless and odorless.
- do not stain, bleach or oxidize.

Although swine flu has dominated headlines since its detection in February, it appears to be no more harmful than any other ordinary flu. But let’s not let our guards down: fear of the 1918 pandemic, during which tens of millions of often young and healthy people died, has caused everyone to think and act preventively.

Public health experts have counseled the public on common sense methods they can apply individually to protect themselves from the flu. Hand washing and the use of hand wipes to sanitize frequently touched surfaces such as exercise machines, keyboards, phones and doorknobs are important. But what else can we do? Is there anything that kills both viruses and bacteria, including the super bugs that are resistant to many if not all types of antimicrobials that doctors and pharmacies dispense?

Silver might well be the answer. Deciding to keep a small spray bottle of silver in your purse or nearby to spritz when necessary just might be one of the smartest and healthiest decisions you’ve ever made.

According to a research team writing in the January–February issue of *Biotechnology Advances* (27;1:76-83. Epub 2008 Sep 30), “Silver has been in use since time immemorial in the form of metallic silver, and as of the 20th century as silver nitrate [and] silver sulfadiazine for the treatment of burns, wounds and many bacterial infections.... Nanotechnology is gaining tremendous impetus in the present century due to its capability of modulating metals into their nanosize, which drastically enhances the chemical, physical and optical properties of metals. The awareness of metallic silver in the form of silver nanoparticles is growing remarkably as a potential antimicrobial agent. The use of silver

nanoparticles is also important, as several pathogenic bacteria have developed resistance against various synthetic antibiotics. Hence, silver nanoparticles have emerged as a solution with diverse medical applications ranging from silver-based dressings [to] silver-coated medicinal devices, such as nanogels, nanolotions, etc.”

In the April 28, 2009, issue of *ACS Nano* (3;4:984-94), researchers used lysozyme, an egg-white enzyme, to catalyze formation of silver nanoparticles. These were effective in inhibiting growth of *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus anthracis* and *Candida albicans*. Remarkably, nanoparticles “demonstrated a strong antimicrobial effect against silver-resistant *Proteus mirabilis* strains and a recombinant *E. coli* strain containing the multiple antibiotic- and silver-resistant plasmid pMG101.”

Perhaps silver should be used alongside antibiotics. In the June 2007 issue of *Nanomedicine* (3;2:168-71. Epub 2007 Apr 30), researchers studied the use of silver with different antibiotics. “Resistance to antimicrobial agents by pathogenic bacteria has emerged in recent years and is a major health problem,” they said. Yet when used with silver, “the antibacterial activities of penicillin G, amoxicillin, erythromycin, clindamycin and vancomycin were increased.... The highest enhancing effects were observed for vancomycin, amoxicillin and penicillin G against *S. aureus*.”

But here’s the real kicker:

## SILVER KILLS VIRUSES, STUDY FINDS

According to an October 18, 2005, online report, the *Journal of Nanotechnology* published a groundbreaking study that found silver nanoparticles kill HIV-1 and are likely to kill virtually any other virus. The study, which was conducted by the University of Texas and Mexico University, reported that silver particles killed 100 percent of the virus within 3 hours. According to the report, “While further research is needed, researchers are optimistic that nanological silver may be the silver bullet to kill viruses. In the antibacterial world, the researchers in the study said that they had already begun experiments using silver nanoparticles to kill what is known as the super bug (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA). Already used as a topical antibiotic in the medical industry, silver may now be considered as an alternative to drugs when it comes to fighting previously untreatable viruses such as the Tamiflu-resistant avian and swine flu.”

“Our article opens an important avenue for research,” said Miguel Jose Yacaman, one of the study’s authors from the University of Texas, Department of Engineering.

### TOPICAL SILVER AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSE AGAINST MRSA THREAT

Indeed, only a few months earlier, on July 14, 2005, scientists released findings that showed silver to be effective in topically combating MRSA, a potentially deadly infection that is raising growing concern in the medical community.

“The results of our laboratory testing show that the infection-fighting properties of silver [are] quite effective in killing the MRSA strain,” said Bruce Gibbins, founder and CTO of AcryMed. “Used in medical dressings or in ointment form, silver can be an extremely useful first defense in stopping MRSA before it develops into a systemic infection. Moreover, due to the nature of antimicrobial silver, it is highly unlikely that MRSA or other developing strains of staph infections will ever build immunities to silver as they have to penicillin and some topical antibiotics.”

According to Gibbins, the use of topical silver antimicrobial products in fighting infections also reduces the overuse of antibiotics. This in turn can delay the growing immunity that these bugs are quickly building against penicillin and other commonly used antibiotics.

### AN ANCIENT TREATMENT

Silver has long been recognized for its infection-fighting properties. In ancient Greece and Rome, silver was used to fight infections and control spoilage. In 1893, the botanist Karl Wilhelm von Nageli discovered that minute concentrations of silver contained microbicidal properties.

Keep in mind that silver purchased directly at health food stores should be used for health maintenance and support. The only brand that we recommend is Sovereign Silver® (for both its silver hydrosol and homeopathic preparations). Sovereign Silver is the only company to make a homeopathic silver antimicrobial product that comes in a gel form. Sovereign Silver Homeopathic Gel is easy to apply on all types of cuts and scrapes, making it particularly effective as a first-line defense. ■

### Resources

Sovereign Silver Homeopathic Gel and nanoparticle silver spray and atomizer for throat and respiratory protection are manufactured and distributed in the U.S. exclusively by Natural-Immunogenics. The company manufactures and distributes products not only to health food stores and natural product supermarkets but to doctors, pharmacies, hospitals, extended-care facilities, surgery centers, homecare dealers, agencies and other healthcare providers.

Visit [www.natural-immunogenics.com](http://www.natural-immunogenics.com) or call them at 888-328-8840.



**IMMUNE HEALTH PROTOCOL**—Adults take one teaspoon of Sovereign Silver (silver hydrosol) orally three times daily for building the immune system, five to seven times daily for more aggressive immune challenges. Apply Sovereign Silver Homeopathic First Aid Gel directly to wounds, minor burns and infections, cuts and scrapes three to five times daily. Clean affected area appropriately between applications.

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