

Public Notice:

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

- **VRE and MRSA cases on B3**
- **No restrictions for hospital visitors**

Three (3) confirmed cases of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and six (6) of Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) have been linked to one medical unit (B3). The cases were identified through our routine contact tracing of new cases and a prevalence screen (swabbing all patients on the unit).

Control measures are in place:

- **Hand Hygiene** – this remains one of the most important infection prevention & control practices to stop transmission of MRSA, VRE and many other infectious diseases
- All identified cases are placed on **Contact Precautions** (isolation). All patients on Contact Precautions are to remain in their room except where medically indicated
- Enhanced **environmental cleaning** of the entire unit is underway
- Continued **case finding** – another prevalence screen for VRE will be conducted Monday, July 11. ARO swabbing will be completed for all new admissions to B3.
- Strict attention to screening for antibiotic resistant organisms (ARO – MRSA & VRE) of all admitted patients is critical to ensure early identification and isolation

PRHC remains fully operational, with programs and services across the hospital unaffected. Visitors are still welcome and visiting hours are unchanged.

As always, visitors are asked to fully comply with appropriate hand hygiene and infection prevention and control practices when visiting the hospital; it is mandatory and vital to reducing health care associated infections.

Another update will be provided in a week's time.

Background:

What is VRE?

Enterococci are germs that live in the gastrointestinal tract (bowels) of most individuals. Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE) are strains of *Enterococci* that are resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin. VRE bacteremia (bloodstream infections only) is reported on a quarterly basis.

What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus is a germ that lives on the skin and mucous membranes of healthy people. Occasionally *S. aureus* can cause an infection. When *S. aureus* develops resistance to certain antibiotics, it is called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA.

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