

**Public Notice:**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2012**

- **VRE cases on B4**
- **No restrictions for hospital visitors**
- **Visitors are asked to fully comply with appropriate hand hygiene and infection prevention and control practices when visiting the hospital**

Twenty (20) cases of Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) have been identified on one medical unit (B4) since the end of November 2011. This includes one (1) new case identified in a prevalence screening conducted last week.

The cases were identified through our routine contact tracing of new cases and a prevalence screen (swabbing all patients on the unit). All cases related to this outbreak are carriers of VRE and do not have signs or symptoms of infection.

**Control measures are in place:**

- **Hand Hygiene** – this remains one of the most important infection prevention & control practices to stop transmission of VRE and 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 was conducted Monday, Jan. 9
- Strict attention to screening all admitted patients for antibiotic resistant organisms 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.**

**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.

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