

## **Public Update:**

**Tuesday, July 19, 2011**

- **No new cases of MRSA – outbreak declared over**
- **Three (3) new cases of VRE have been identified since July 4**
- **No restrictions for hospital visitors**

No new cases of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) have been identified from the most recent prevalence screens completed on Monday, July 4 and Monday, July 11. The MRSA outbreak has been declared over today. A total of three (3) cases were linked to this outbreak.

Three new cases of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE) have been identified as a result of ongoing screening practices. A total of nine (9) cases of VRE have been identified since June 28. Only two cases remain in hospital.

Early identification of patients with antibiotic-resistant organisms is an important prevention strategy to decrease transmission of these organisms. Prevalence screening for VRE (swabbing all patients on the unit) was conducted again on Monday, July 18.

### **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
- 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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