

Staphylococcus aureus Infection, Vancomycin-Intermediate (VISA) or Vancomycin-Resistant (VRSA)

Agent: *Staphylococcus aureus* (bacteria) that have developed intermediate or complete resistance to the antibiotic vancomycin, based on susceptibility testing.

Mode of Transmission: Person-to-person spread through direct contact or through contact with contaminated materials or surfaces.

Signs/Symptoms: Dependent on site of infection (e.g., skin, bone, urinary or respiratory tract). VISA or VRSA infections can cause a range of symptoms including skin infections, abscesses, pneumonia, and infection of the heart valves, bones, or blood. Infection may develop into toxic shock syndrome. Asymptomatic colonization can occur.

Prevention: Preventive measures include appropriate use of antibiotics to treat infections, good hand hygiene, and proper cleaning and disinfecting of contaminated surfaces.

Other Important Information: While VRSA infection became a reportable condition in 1999, VISA infection was not added to the reportable list of conditions until 2007.

Three cases of VISA infection were reported in Virginia in 2014. All three cases occurred among persons older than 60 years. Race information was reported as black for all three cases, with two being female and one male. Two cases were reported from the eastern region and one from the northern region. One case occurred following use of vancomycin, and one case resulted in death. Twelve cases have been reported in Virginia since surveillance was initiated in 1999. Of note, 9 of 12 VISA cases have occurred in the black population.

VRSA has never been reported in a Virginia resident.