

## **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.

In 2015, one case of VISA infection was reported in Virginia. The infection occurred in a female in the 40-49 year age group from the northern region. The individual had a history of MRSA infections. Thirteen VISA cases have been reported in Virginia since surveillance was initiated in 1999. Of note, nine of the 13 VISA cases have occurred in the black population.

No cases of VRSA have ever been reported in a Virginia resident.