

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

Agent: *Staphylococcus aureus* (bacteria) that has 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.

Three cases of VISA infection were reported in Virginia in 2013. Two cases occurred in the 60 year and older age group, and one case was in the less than 1 year age group. All three cases occurred in black males, one each from the northern, northwest, and eastern health planning regions. One case occurred following use of vancomycin and one case resulted in death. These are the seventh, eighth, and ninth cases of VISA ever reported in Virginia, with the prior infections occurring in 2007 (1 case), 2010 (1 case), 2011 (2 cases), and 2012 (2 cases). Of note, six of Virginia's nine VISA cases have occurred in the black population.

VRSA has never been reported in a Virginia resident.