

## When will the Contact Precautions stop?

Contact Precautions will stop when you have 3 follow-up tests in a row that show you do not have MRSA or VRE.

For the follow-up tests:

- You need to be off antibiotics for at least 48 hours before each test
- Samples are collected at least 7 days apart



## What happens if I go home with MRSA or VRE?

You do not need to use the Contact Precautions at home that the Cancer Centre uses. The best thing you and your family can do to prevent the spread of germs is clean your hands.



- **Do not share** personal items such as towels, washcloths, razors, and clothing.



- Wash dishes and laundry in hot water and detergent.

## What if I'm readmitted to the Cancer Centre or another healthcare facility?

If you are readmitted to the Cancer Centre or to another healthcare facility, tell them if you have tested positive for MRSA or VRE.

## I am an outpatient and need to come to the Centre for appointments. What do I do if I have tested positive for MRSA or VRE?

If you are an outpatient:

- Go directly to your appointment area and stay there
- Check in and tell the clerk you have MRSA or VRE
- You may be placed in a private room to wait for your appointment and you may be re-tested for MRSA or VRE

# MRSA and VRE

PATIENT AND VISITOR INFORMATION



## What are MRSA and VRE?

MRSA and VRE are 2 types of bacteria that can become resistant to antibiotics (the antibiotics don't work anymore).

The bacteria may be found in the nose, on the skin, and in other areas of the body. They are usually harmless, but sometimes they can cause infections.

## When am I tested for MRSA and/or VRE?

You are tested for MRSA or VRE if:

- You had to stay in a hospital sometime in the last 6 months
- Your doctor thinks you may have an infection
- You have a history of MRSA or VRE
- Your hospital roommate tested positive for MRSA or VRE

## Why do I need to be tested?

MRSA and VRE can make people more sick which can cause them to have to stay in the hospital longer. If we know who is infected, we can use precautions to help keep it from spreading.



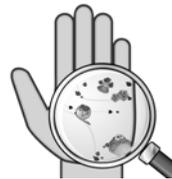
## How will I be tested?

Your healthcare provider will take swabs from your nose, groin, and rectum and send them to the lab for testing.

## How are MRSA and VRE spread?

They can be spread to other people through contact with:

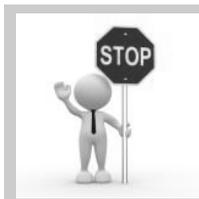
- Hands
- Patient care equipment
- Unclean surfaces such as door knobs or tables



## What can I do to reduce the spread of infection?

Wash your hands:

- After using the bathroom
- After coughing, sneezing and wiping your nose
- Before eating or drinking
- Before entering and leaving the hospital room or Cancer Centre



## Did you know?

Cleaning your hands is the best way to prevent the spread of MRSA or VRE.

Alcohol-based hand rubs are recommended.



If you can see dirt on your hands, wash them with soap and water instead.

## What increases my chance of getting MRSA or VRE?

You have a greater chance of getting MRSA or VRE if you:

- Stayed in a hospital sometime in the last 6 months
- Have medical devices such as urinary catheters or central venous catheters
- Have been treated with antibiotics for a long period of time

## What does the hospital do to prevent the spread of infection?

The hospital uses **Contact**

**Precautions** to prevent the spread of infection. These are guidelines that help reduce the spread of germs when there is contact between people and the environment.

### Healthcare providers will:

- Move the patient to a private room with his or her own bathroom if possible
- Place a sign on the patient's door to let everyone know to use Contact Precautions
- Wear a gown and gloves if helping with care of the patient

### Visitors will:

- Clean their hands every time they enter and exit the room
- Wear a gown and gloves if helping with care of the patient

### Patients will:

- Stay in their room except when going for treatments or tests
- Clean their hands and put on a clean housecoat before leaving their room