



June 24, 2010

From: MDCH Bureau of Laboratories

Re: *Staphylococcus aureus* that are not susceptible to Vancomycin

Dear Colleague,

Eight of the 11 cases of vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA) infection confirmed to date in the United States since 2002 have occurred in Michigan. In May, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released an update for Clinical Laboratories and Healthcare Infection Preventionists to remind them of their essential role in the search for and containment of VRSA. This is an excellent opportunity to review your laboratory's procedures for detecting VRSA. You may want to compare your protocol to the CDC algorithm from March 2009, located at [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_visavrsa\\_algo.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_visavrsa_algo.html)

The full CDC reminder, including a table summarizing the 11 VRSA cases in the U.S., is attached as a separate file.

Please remember that the finding of VRSA (and also VISA, vancomycin-intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus*), is reportable in Michigan, and that isolates must be submitted to the MDCH Lab in Lansing. Also note that CDC is interested in studying any MRSA (methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*) and VRE (vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*) isolates from patients with VRSA, so save all three organisms on these patients.

Link to *Reportable Diseases chart*, last updated May 2010

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Reportable\\_Disease\\_Chart\\_2005\\_122678\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Reportable_Disease_Chart_2005_122678_7.pdf)

Link to MDCH Lab test requisition

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DCH-0583TEST\\_REQUEST\\_7587\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DCH-0583TEST_REQUEST_7587_7.pdf)

Link to form to request shipping kits (Unit 42A or Unit 42B) for isolate submission

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dch-0568\\_7396\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dch-0568_7396_7.pdf)

Link to page with general information about communicable disease (CD) and reporting in Michigan. Click on *CD Resources and Forms* for more details (under *Rules and Regulations*).

[http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2945\\_5104\\_53072---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2945_5104_53072---,00.html)

Be sure and take advantage of the software tools your commercial antimicrobial susceptibility testing systems offer, too – such as flagging vancomycin-resistant *S. aureus* as “requires confirmation”.

Thank you for all you do every day to protect the health of the people of Michigan.

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