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To: Wisconsin Local Health Departments, Tribal Health Agencies, Health Care Providers, and Infection Preventionists

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Vancomycin-intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA) and Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA) as Reportable Conditions in Wisconsin

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This memo provides updated guidance for reporting VISA/VRSA in Wisconsin: In alignment with current reporting guidelines for other multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), VISA/VRSA shall be considered a Category II reportable condition in Wisconsin effective immediately.

Background

Vancomycin-intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA) and vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA) have been Category I reportable conditions in Wisconsin per [Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 145](#) since 2007. Category I conditions are of urgent public health importance and require immediate notification by speaking with a local health officer or their designee, followed by a fax, mail, or electronic report within 24 hours. Approximately 50 VISA infections have been reported in Wisconsin since 2007. No known cases of VRSA infections have been reported in Wisconsin.

Category II conditions should be reported to local and Tribal health departments via fax, mail, or electronic report within 72 hours. While systematic surveillance remains important for these organisms, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is aligning all MDROs on the same communicable disease reporting timeline. This better aligns with the actions that health care facilities and public health agencies take upon identification of these MDROs, including assessment of transmission risk and infection prevention practices.

Case definition and reporting information

For specific information about the VISA/VRSA case definition, confirmatory testing by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) of isolates suspected to be VISA/VRSA, and Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) reporting requirements, see the [Vancomycin-Intermediate and Vancomycin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Infections Case Reporting and Investigation Protocol \(EpiNet\)](#).

Contacts

- Contact the Wisconsin Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program by calling 608-267-7711 or emailing DHSWIHAIPreventionProgram@wi.gov.
- See Wisconsin HAI Prevention Program [staff and contact information](#).
- See Wisconsin local and Tribal health department [contact information](#).

Resources

- See the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) [webpage](#) with general information on VISA/VRSA and answers to frequently asked questions.
- See the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, VISA/VRSA [webpage](#).