

Cluster of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci cases in North District Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for North District Hospital (NDH) made the following announcement today (July 27):

A 69-year-old male patient in an orthopaedic ward of NDH was found infected with Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) on July 22.

In accordance with the prevailing infection control guidelines, the hospital has conducted a contact tracing investigation. Four more male patients (aged 57 to 86) were found to be VRE carriers and were asymptomatic. Three of the patients were transferred to Tai Po Hospital earlier. All patients are being treated in isolation, and are in stable condition.

The ward concerned has adopted the following enhanced infection control measures:

1. Enhanced hand hygiene and stringent contact precautions;
2. Enhanced attention to contamination-prone procedures; and
3. Enhanced disinfection and cleaning of the ward concerned.

The hospital will closely monitor the situation of the ward concerned. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.