



## **Suspending Use of Contact Isolation for Patients with MRSA and VRE Colonization**

As part of our COVID-19 Response PPE Conservation Plan, we will be discontinuing contact precautions for patients with MRSA and VRE colonization.

### **What data support this recommendation?**

Other hospitals have successfully discontinued contact precautions for care of MRSA- and VRE-colonized patients and have not observed an increase in hospital-acquired MRSA and VRE infections among inpatients.

### **What other infection prevention measures are effective to reduce transmission of MRSA and VRE in the hospital?**

Compliance with other infection prevention measures—including hand hygiene, environmental disinfection, and cleaning of shared equipment—are effective measures to prevent transmission of pathogens including MRSA and VRE.

In addition, all healthcare workers should continue to follow Standard Precautions, which include the use of gloves when contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin, secretions, or wound is anticipated. Likewise, gowns should be worn when caring for patients with draining wounds or when a contamination of clothing with blood or body fluids is anticipated.

### **What is the recommendation on other Infection Statuses?**

- Contact precautions will still be used for patients with active infections due to MRSA or VRE, and for patients with CRE colonization or infection.
- Contact special-enteric precautions will still be used for patients with *C. difficile* infection.

### **How will the changes be implemented?**

Infection Prevention will review inpatients with Infection Statuses of MRSA and/or VRE, remove infection statuses and isolation orders as indicated, and communicate changes to nursing units.