

Oak Valley Health declares outbreak of vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) at Markham Stouffville Hospital

November 21, 2023

Today, in consultation with York Region Public Health, an outbreak of vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE) has been declared at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital within the medicine/AAU inpatient unit (2 East).

An outbreak, as defined by the Ministry of Health, is an increase in the number of cases above the number normally occurring over a defined period of time.

In the month of November, six patients have tested positive. All patients currently on the unit have been placed on contact precautions. Private rooms and dedicated equipment have been allocated for patients that have tested positive for VRE.

As per outbreak management measures, heightened infection prevention and control measures have been implemented, such as testing of patients, enhanced cleaning of the department and equipment, and ongoing auditing and reinforcement of personal protective equipment (PPE) practices.

The health and safety of our patients, the community, and our health care workers is paramount. The Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health teams at Oak Valley Health are working closely with York Region Public Health to ensure that best practice guidance is undertaken.

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Media contact:

Michelle Lee Hoy, Senior Communications Specialist, Communications and Public Affairs
Oak Valley Health

E: mlheehoy@oakvalleyhealth.ca P: 905-472-7373 ext. 2419