

Update on cluster of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci cases in Kowloon Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) carrier cases, the spokesperson for Kowloon Hospital (KH) gave the following update today (April 26):

In accordance with the prevailing infection control guidelines, the hospital commenced contact tracing. Three more male in-patients (aged 73 to 90) in a medical extended care ward were confirmed as carriers of VRE. One of the patients was transferred to Kwong Wah Hospital for further treatment. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation in the hospitals with stable condition.

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

1. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned;
2. Enhanced admission screening for patients and environmental screening procedures;
3. Enhanced attention to contamination-prone procedures; and
4. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients.

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