

A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. A lock () or https:// means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites. Enterococci are bacteria normally found in the human intestines, female genital tract and environment (e.g., soil and water). VRE are resistant to vancomycin, the drug often used to treat infections caused by enterococci. Most VRE infections occur in hospitals. In 2017, VRE caused an estimated 54,500 infections among hospitalized patients and 5,400 estimated deaths in the United States.¹ VRE does not spread through the air by coughing or sneezing. Patients and caregivers should: Healthcare providers should always follow core infection control practices to reduce the risk of spreading these germs to patients. VRE infections are treated with antibiotics other than vancomycin. To pick the best antibiotic, healthcare providers will send a specimen to the laboratory. In some cases, people can carry VRE without being infected, known as colonization. Colonization does not require antibiotics. VRE spreads easily in healthcare settings, but infections can be prevented. Antibiotics can treat VRE infections. Languages Language Assistance Languages Language Assistance

