

## Facts at a Glance

### C difficile

#### QUICK FACTS

- C. difficile is a bacterium that causes diarrhea and more serious intestinal conditions.
- C. difficile is the most common cause of infectious diarrhea in hospitalized patients in the industrialized world.
- The use of antibiotics increases the chances of developing C. difficile diarrhea as it alters the normal level of good bacteria found in the intestines and colon.
- Good hand hygiene is the single-most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases like C. difficile.
- The first province-wide public release of MRSA bacteremia rates for all Ontario hospitals occurred on December 30, 2008
- Hospitals will post their own number of MRSA bacteremia cases and rates on their own websites. At the same time, the Ministry of health and Long Term Care will post the numbers and rates for all hospitals on a public website.
- DRDH believes the reporting of MRSA bacteremia rates is a beneficial step and is in full support of this initiative.
- Good hand hygiene by everyone, healthcare staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and visitors, is the single-most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases like MRSA
- DRDH is not in an outbreak situation. DRDH is a safe hospital and is committed to providing the best patient care possible.

## Our Commitment

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Public reporting of our infection rates is important because it will allow us to work with a standardized approach across the province. Our commitment to our patients is one of safety and continuous improvement. If our rates rise above our baseline, then we will: internally at our hospital's processes; consult externally with experts; identify areas for improvement and implement strategies to reduce VRE bacteremia in our organization.