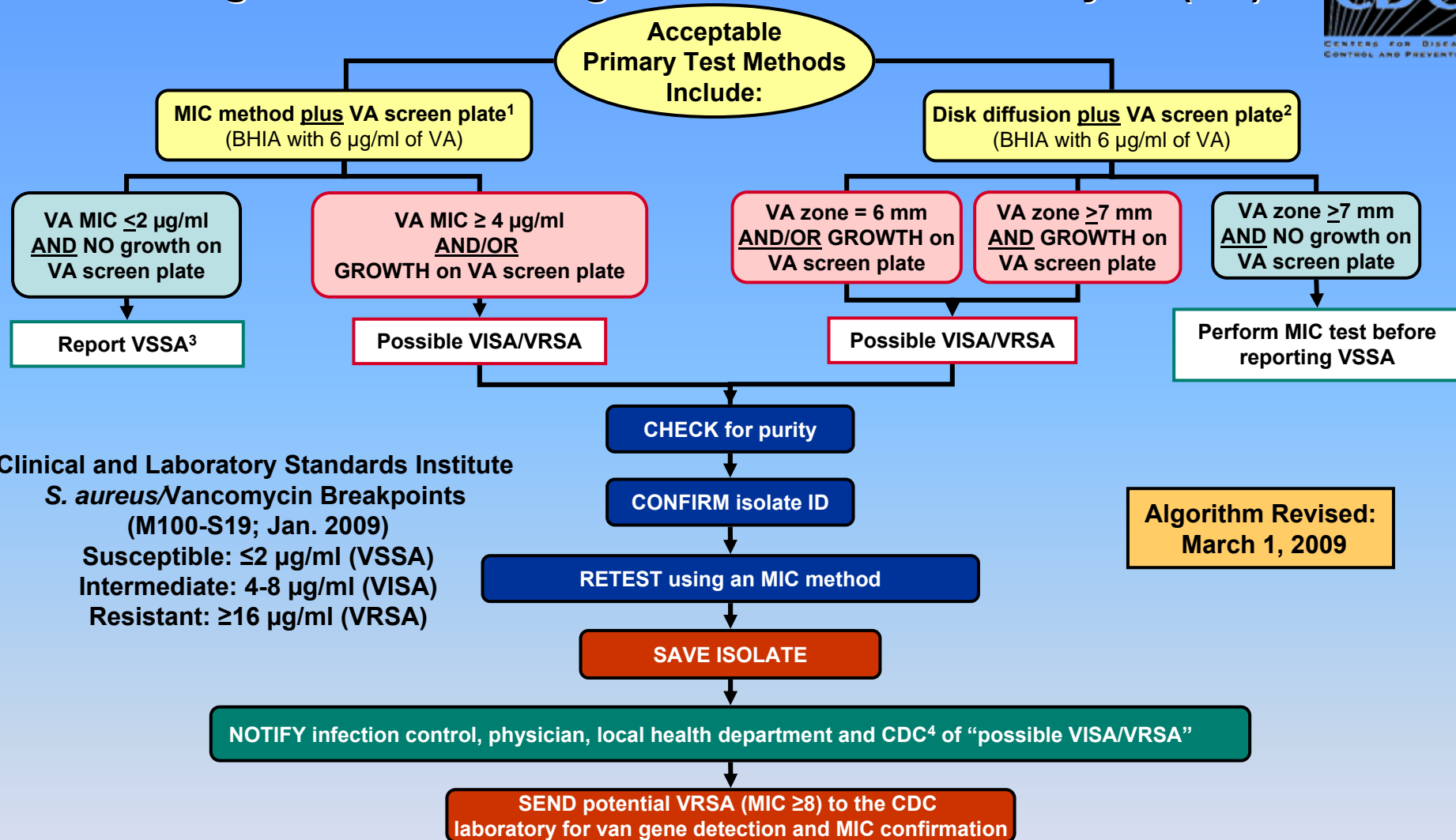


# Algorithm for Testing *S. aureus* with Vancomycin (VA)



Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute  
*S. aureus*/Vancomycin Breakpoints  
 (M100-S19; Jan. 2009)  
 Susceptible: ≤2 µg/ml (VSSA)  
 Intermediate: 4-8 µg/ml (VISA)  
 Resistant: ≥16 µg/ml (VRSA)

Algorithm Revised:  
 March 1, 2009

### Important Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Laboratories using automated MIC methods that have not been validated for VRSA detection should add a commercial VA agar screen plate (6 µg/ml).
- <sup>2</sup> Disk diffusion will not differentiate VISA (MICs 4-8) from susceptible strains (MICs 0.5-2). The vancomycin disk test will detect VRSA isolates containing the *vanA* resistance gene by showing no zone of inhibition around the disk (zone = 6 mm). VA screen plate will not reliably detect strains for which MIC=4.
- <sup>3</sup> If concerned about a result based on a patient's history, send to a reference lab for MIC testing.
- <sup>4</sup> Report only isolates with MIC ≥ 8µg/ml or zone diameter = 6 mm to CDC by email: SEARCH@cdc.gov