

CANDIDA AURIS (C. AURIS)

What is *Candida auris*?

*C. auris* is a yeast (type of fungus) that causes serious infections and can spread in healthcare settings. Individuals who have been in a healthcare facility a long time, have indwelling lines, drains, or tubes, or have previously received antibiotics or antifungal medications, appear to be at the highest risk of infection with this yeast. *C. auris* can cause bloodstream infections, wound infections, and ear infections. It has also been isolated from respiratory and urine specimens.

How is *Candida auris* spread?

*C. auris* can spread in healthcare settings through contact with contaminated environmental surfaces or equipment, or from person to person.

What are the symptoms of *Candida auris* infection?

The most common symptoms of invasive *Candida* infection are fever and chills that don't improve after antibiotic treatment for a suspected bacterial infection. *C. auris* can live on the skin or other body parts without making a person sick. This is called being "colonized" (carrying *C. auris* without any symptoms of infection).

How is *Candida auris* diagnosed?

Symptoms might not be noticeable because individuals infected with *C. auris* are often sick with another serious illness or condition. In addition, *C. auris* can be misidentified in labs without specific technology, which may take longer to result (5-7 days).

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How is *Candida auris* treated?

*C. auris* infections can be difficult to treat because most are resistant to at least one medicine used to treat fungal infections, referred to as an antifungal medicine.

Stopping the spread of *Candida auris*

- Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Ensure adherence to infection control, including placing individuals infected or colonized with *C. auris* on Transmission-Based Precautions and, whenever possible, in a single room.
- Clean patient rooms thoroughly with a disinfectant that works against *C. auris*. *C. auris* can live on surfaces in the healthcare environments for at least 7 days and can cause outbreaks in healthcare facilities.
- When a patient/resident with *C. auris* is transferred to another healthcare facility, notify the receiving facility that the patient/resident has *C. auris* so that the appropriate infection prevention and control measures can be promptly used (isolation).
- If a case of *C. auris* is suspected in your facility, notify your local health department (must be reported within 3 days).



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