

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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