

BACKGROUND

Candida auris (also called *C. auris*) is a fungus that causes severe infections. An infection with *C. Auris* can be difficult to treat because it is resistant to at least one medicine used to treat fungal infections, referred to as antifungal medicine.

Symptoms of *C. auris* infection depend on the part of the body affected. It can cause many different types of infection, such as bloodstream infection, wound infection, and ear infection. Because symptoms can vary greatly, a laboratory test is needed to determine whether a person has a *C. auris* infection.

C. auris can quickly spread from one person to another in hospitals and nursing homes. People can carry *C. auris* somewhere on their bodies, even if it is not making them sick. This is called colonization. When people in hospitals and nursing homes are colonized, *C. auris* can spread from their bodies and get on other people or nearby objects, allowing the fungus to spread to people around them.

WHO DOES THE ISSUE IMPACT?

Most of the time, *C. auris* affects patients who already have many medical problems. This includes people who have had frequent hospital stays or live in nursing homes. *C. auris* is more likely to affect patients who have weakened immune systems from conditions such as blood cancers or diabetes, receive lots of antibiotics, or have devices, like tubes, going into their body (for example, breathing tubes, feeding tubes, catheters in a vein, or bladder catheters).



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology's Division of Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention has developed a toolkit for healthcare facilities, and educational resources. We work closely with facilities and healthcare partners to better respond to, contain the spread of, and prevent future infections with *C. auris*.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Patients with *C. auris* infection, their family members and other close contacts, public health officials, laboratory staff, and healthcare personnel can help stop *C. auris* from spreading.

- Clean your hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water before and after touching someone with *C. auris* or equipment in their room.
- Healthcare providers should follow infection prevention and control measures, such as using gowns and gloves when caring for patients with *C. auris* infection or colonization. You can ask the facility about their particular policy.
- Because *C. auris* can live on surfaces in healthcare environments, regular cleaning and disinfecting of the environment with products that are effective against *C. auris* is also important.

- When a patient with *C. auris* is transferred to another healthcare facility, the receiving facility should be notified of the patient’s infection or colonization status so that the appropriate infection prevention and control measures can be promptly used.
- If you or a family member are going home after being diagnosed with *C. auris* infection or colonization, more information is available in our handout: [Discharge Information for Candida auris Patients Returning Home](#).

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[General Information about Candida auris from CDC](#)

PA DOH [Healthcare Facility Toolkit for Response to Candida auris](#)

If you have any questions, contact us at RA-DHHAI@pa.gov.