



## *Candida auris*

### *Protection for Health Care Providers*

#### What is *Candida auris*?

Healthcare facilities in several countries have reported that an emerging type of yeast called *Candida auris* has been causing severe illness, mostly among individuals residing in long term care facilities. In some patients, this yeast can enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body, causing serious invasive infections.

#### Trends, Local prevalence

- Invasive fungal infections kill over 1.5 million people a year worldwide, and this number is on the rise due to increasing numbers of people living with compromised immunity.
- The *Candida* species alone is responsible for approx. 400,000 bloodstream infections annually worldwide.
- There have been 156 confirmed cases of *C. Auris* in Illinois, most of which are centered in Chicago and Cook county.
  - No confirmed cases in Kendall County as of July 2019.

#### Risk Factors

*Candida auris* is an emerging fungus that presents a serious global health threat. CDC is concerned about *C. auris* for these main reasons:

- It is often multidrug-resistant, meaning that it is resistant to multiple antifungal drugs commonly used to treat *Candida* infections.
- It is difficult to identify with standard laboratory methods, and it can be misidentified in labs without specific technology. Misidentification may lead to inappropriate management.
- It has caused outbreaks in healthcare settings. For this reason, it is important to quickly identify *C. auris* in a hospitalized patient so that healthcare facilities can take special precautions to stop its spread.

#### Apply Standard Infection Control Standards

- Placing the patient with *C. auris* in a single-patient room and using Standard and Contact Precautions.
  - Which is the principle that all blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions except sweat, and mucous membranes may contain transmissible infectious agents.
    - Regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status
- **Emphasizing adherence to hand hygiene.**
- Cleaning and disinfecting patient care environment and reusable equipment (daily and terminal cleaning) with these recommended products.
  - Registered hospital-grade disinfectant effective against *Clostridioides difficile* spores ([List K](#)).
  - If not possible then the use of Oxivir Tb, Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant, Prime Sani-Cloth Wipe, or Super Sani-Cloth Wipe is recommended.
- Inter-facility communication about patient's *C. auris* status at **transfer to another healthcare facility**.
- Screening contacts of newly identified case patients to identify *C. auris* colonization.
- Conduct surveillance for new cases to detect ongoing transmission.
- **Upon Transport, ask facility about any communicable infections**

Providers, facilities, and labs should notify Kendall County public health authorities at **(630) 553-9100 of any suspect or confirmed cases**

#### **Additional resources:**

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/recommendations.html>.

IDPH: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/candida-auris>