

**Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency
Lancaster County Health Advisory Council
Important Information *Candida auris*
03/22/2023**

What it is...

Candida auris (also called *C. auris*) is an emerging multidrug-resistant yeast. *Candida auris* is a fungus that causes serious infections. *Candida auris* is relatively rare and is almost never seen in otherwise healthy patients. *C. auris* can spread through person-to-person contact in congregate facilities, such as a nursing home or hospital. Many professionals are concerned about *C. auris* because it is often resistant to common medications. Antifungal medicines commonly used to treat *Candida* infections often don't work for *Candida auris*. Some *C. auris* infections have been resistant to all three types of antifungal medicines.

What it does...

C. auris can cause bloodstream infections and even death, particularly in elderly, neonates and in the patients with serious medical problems. Patients who have a long stay in an intensive care unit, have serious medical conditions, severe burn injury, and who have previously received antibiotics or antifungal medications, appear to be at highest risk of infection.

What to expect...

C. auris is still rare in the United States. People who get invasive *Candida* infections are often already sick from other medical conditions, so it can be difficult to know if you have a *C. 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. Only a laboratory test can diagnose *C. auris* infection. Talk to your primary care provider if you believe you have a fungal or healthcare associated infection.

Although the risk of *C. auris* infection in otherwise healthy people is low, patients and their family members should continue practicing good hand hygiene when returning home. If family members are caring for patients with *C. auris*, they should consider wearing disposable gloves when providing certain types of care like changing the dressing on wounds and helping the patient bathe.

What to do...

When visiting healthcare facilities, be sure to wash your hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water. If you encounter someone who has *C. auris*, be sure to clean your hands thoroughly with hand sanitizer or soap and water before and after touching a patient with *C. auris* or equipment in their room. Good hand hygiene and cleaning in healthcare facilities is important because *C. auris* can live on surfaces for several weeks.

Stay informed...

Only consult reliable sources for information regarding *C. auris*. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is actively collaborating with public health partners to learn more about *Candida auris* by advising healthcare personnel and infection control staff on ways to stop the spread of *C. auris* and continually updating this guidance as we learn more about the infection.

Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). Increasing Threat of Spread of Antimicrobial-resistant Fungus in Healthcare Facilities.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2023/p0320-cauris.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). *Candida auris*.

<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/index.html>

Pennsylvania Department of Health (2022). UPDATE: Outbreak and Containment of *Candida auris* in PA Healthcare Facilities. 2022 – PAHAN – 654 – 08-08-UPD.

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-654-08-08-UPD-C_Auris_update.pdf