

Candida auris: A drug-resistant germ that spreads in healthcare facilities

Candida auris (also called *C. auris*) is a fungus that causes serious infections. Patients with *C. auris* infection, their family members and other close contacts, public health officials, laboratory staff, and healthcare workers can all help stop it from spreading.

Why is *Candida auris* a problem?



It causes serious infections. *C. auris* can cause bloodstream infections and even death, particularly in hospital and nursing home patients with serious medical problems. More than 1 in 3 patients with invasive *C. auris* infection (for example, an infection that affects the blood, heart, or brain) die.



It's often resistant to medicines. 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.



It's becoming more common. Although *C. auris* was just discovered in 2009, it has spread quickly and caused infections in more than a dozen countries.



It's difficult to identify. *C. auris* can be misidentified as other types of fungi unless specialized laboratory technology is used. This misidentification might lead to a patient getting the wrong treatment.



It can spread in hospitals and nursing homes. *C. auris* has caused outbreaks in healthcare facilities and can spread through contact with affected patients and contaminated surfaces or equipment. Good hand hygiene and cleaning in healthcare facilities is important because *C. auris* can live on surfaces for several weeks.

How do I know if I have a *Candida auris* infection?

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 healthcare provider if you believe you have a fungal or healthcare-associated infection.



Most people who get serious *Candida* infections are already sick from other medical conditions.



**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
National Center for Emerging and
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Stopping the spread of *Candida auris*

CDC is working with public health partners, healthcare workers, and laboratories to stop the spread of *C. auris* in healthcare settings. Here's how CDC is asking everyone to help:



Family members and other close contacts of patients with *C. auris*

- » Clean your hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water before and after touching a patient with *C. auris* or equipment in his or her room.
- » Remind healthcare workers to clean their hands.



Laboratory staff, healthcare workers, and public health officials

- » Know when to suspect *C. auris* and how to properly identify it.
- » Report cases quickly to public health departments.
- » For healthcare workers, clean hands correctly and use precautions like wearing gowns and gloves to prevent spread.
- » Clean patient rooms thoroughly with a disinfectant that works against *C. auris*.
- » Investigate *C. auris* cases quickly and determine additional ways to prevent spread.
- » Check the CDC website for the most up-to-date guidance on identifying and managing *C. auris*.
<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/recommendations.html>.



Scientists are still learning about *Candida auris*

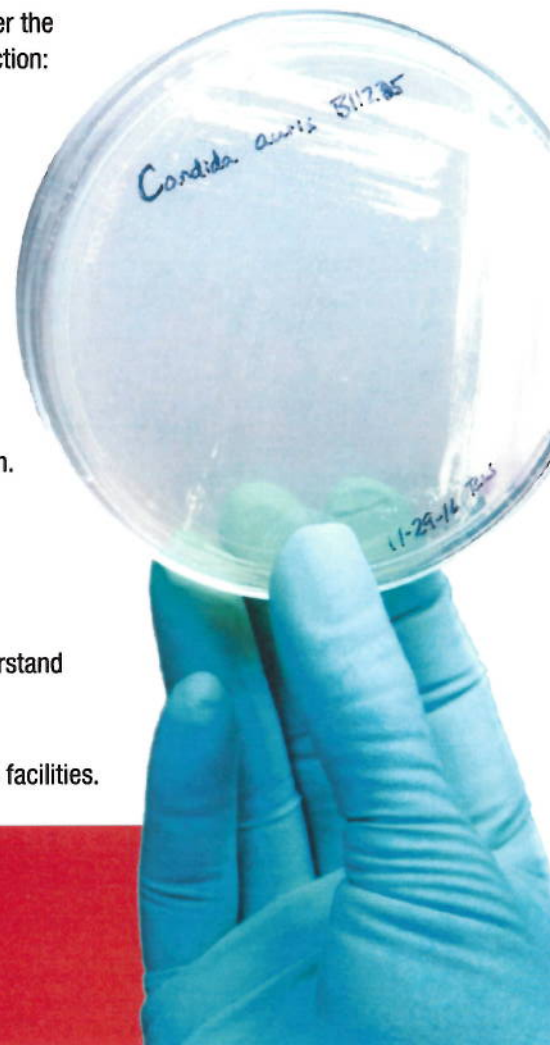
CDC and public health partners are working hard to better understand *C. auris* and answer the following questions so that we can continue to help protect people from this serious infection:

- Why is *C. auris* resistant to antifungal medicines?
- Why did *C. auris* start causing infections in recent years?
- Where did *C. auris* originally come from, and why has it appeared in many regions of the world at the same time?

What is CDC doing?

CDC is collaborating closely with partners to better respond, contain spread, and prevent future infections by:

- Advising healthcare workers 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.
- Working with state and local health agencies, healthcare facilities, and clinical microbiology laboratories to ensure that laboratories are using proper methods to detect *C. auris*.
- Testing *C. auris* strains to monitor for resistance to antifungal medicines.
- Examining the DNA of *C. auris* strains using whole genome sequencing to better understand how this germ is spreading in the United States and around the world.
- Working with public health partners in the United States and internationally to learn more about how *C. auris* spreads in healthcare facilities and to eliminate it from those facilities.



For more information:

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