



# *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:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases  
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases  
Telephone 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) Web <http://www.cdc.gov/fungal>