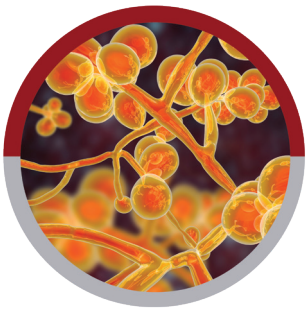
Emerging Pathogen Alert:
Candida auris



Pathogen Profile[1,2]

+ *Candida auris* is an emerging fungus that presents a serious global health threat.
+ Many *C. auris* infections are multi-drug resistant; meaning resistant to multiple antifungal drugs used to treat *C. auris* infections making it more difficult to treat.
+ *C. auris* is difficult to identify with standard laboratory methods leading to misidentification and improper management.
+ *C. auris* has caused outbreaks in healthcare settings; quick identification is important to implement special precautions to stop its transmission.
+ *C. auris* can cause bloodstream and other types of invasive infections, particularly in patients in hospitals and residents in nursing homes who have multiple medical problems. More than 1 in 3 patients die within a month of *C. auris* infection.

Routes of Transmission[1,2]

+ *C. auris* can spread from one person to another through contact transmission in hospitals and nursing homes.
+ People can carry *C. auris* somewhere on their body, even if it is not making them sick.
+ Persons colonized with *C. auris* may contaminate other people, objects, or surfaces allowing the fungus to spread through contact transmission.
+ Studies have shown that *C. auris* can persist on surfaces in the healthcare environment for at least 14 days (Piedrahita et al., 2017[3]; Welsh et al., 2017[4]); *C. auris* has been cultured from contaminated bedding for up to 7 days (Biswal et al., 2017)[5].

Precautions and Infection Control[6]

Prepare for *C. auris* in healthcare:

+ Ensure the laboratory can identify *C. auris*; if not, send suspected isolates to the state or local public health laboratory for further identification.
+ Establish a surveillance protocol with laboratory for prompt notification when *C. auris* is suspected.
+ Identify persons at higher risk for *C. auris*. These include:
  - People who have received healthcare in post-acute care facilities (e.g., nursing homes), especially those with ventilator units.
  - People with a recent history of receiving healthcare outside the United States in a country with known *C. auris* transmission.
+ Educate on recommendations for infection prevention and control of *C. auris* with healthcare staff, including environmental services.

***C. auris* during COVID-19:**

+ *C. auris* outbreaks have been reported in COVID-19 units in acute care facilities. Outbreaks may be related to altered infection control practices during the pandemic, and limited availability of PPE, reuse of PPE, and changes in cleaning/disinfection practices.
+ New *C. auris* cases not linked to known cases or healthcare exposure abroad have been identified in multiple states indicating an increase in undetected transmission.
+ *C. auris* colonization screening (and containment efforts) has been more limited as resources have been diverted to pandemic response.

What to do when *C. auris* is in your facility:

+ Check the CDC website for the most up-to-date guidance on identifying and managing *C. auris*.
+ Report possible or confirmed *C. auris* immediately to your public health department.

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What to do when *C. auris* is in your facility, cont.:

+ Ensure adherence to CDC recommendations for infection control, including:
  - Place patients infected or colonized with *C. auris* in a single room on contact precautions.
  - Assess and ensure gown and glove use.
  - Reinforce hand hygiene protocols.
  - Coordinate with environmental services to ensure the environment is cleaned with a disinfectant that is effective against *C. auris* (EPA List P: Antimicrobial Products Registered with EPA for Claims Against *Candida auris*) by searching EPA at: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-p-antimicrobial-products-registered-epa-claims-against-candida-auris
  - If the products on List P are not accessible or otherwise suitable, facilities may use an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant effective against *C. difficile* spores by searching EPA at: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-k-antimicrobial-products-registered-epa-claims-against-clostridium
  - *C. auris* has been cultured in both the immediate patient environment and general environmental surfaces farther away within patient room; *C. auris* has been identified on shared mobile equipment.
  - Thorough daily and terminal cleaning/disinfection of patient/resident rooms and areas where care is received should be performed using an appropriate disinfectant.
+ Screen contacts of case individuals to identify others that may be colonized.
+ Clearly communicate the person's *C. auris* status to other healthcare providers facilities managing their care, i.e. transfer from acute care to long term care.

	REORDER NO.	WIPE SIZE	CASE PACK	CASE WGT	CASE CUBE	PALLET TI/ HI
Sani-HyPerCide® Germicidal Disposable Wipe, EPA Reg. No. 9480-16 *(EPA List P, listed as Project Flash Wipes)*						
Large Canister	P27372	6" X 6.75"	12/160's	23.58 lbs	1.430 ft	10/3
Extra Large Canister	P26584	7.5" X 15"	6/65's	15.10 lbs	0.936 ft	10/4
Sani-Cloth® Prime Germicidal Disposable Wipe, EPA Reg. No. 9480-12 *(EPA List P, listed as Wonder Woman Formula B Germicidal Wipes)*						
Large Canister	P25372	6" X 6.75"	12/160's	30.56 lbs	1.430 ft	10/3
Extra Large Canister	P24284	7.5" X 15"	6/70's	18.50 lbs	0.936 ft	10/4
Super Sani-Cloth® Germicidal Disposable Wipe, EPA Reg. No. 9480-4 *(EPA List P, listed as Sani-Cloth® Germicidal Wipes)*						
Softpack	A22480	8.2" X 9.8"	9/80's	16.58 lbs	0.948 ft	10/4
Large Canister	Q55172	6" X 6.75"	12/160's	25.63 lbs	1.430 ft	10/3
Extra Large Canister	P86984	7.5" X 15"	6/75's	15.53 lbs	0.936 ft	10/4
Sani-Cloth® Bleach Germicidal Disposable Wipe, EPA Reg. No. 9480-8 *(EPA List K , listed as PDI Sani-Cloth® Bleach Wipes)*						
Clinical Size	P84172	6" X 5"	12/160's	25.96 lbs	1.430 ft	10/3
Large Canister	P54072	6" X 10.5"	12/75's	26.59 lbs	1.430 ft	10/3
Extra Large Canister	P25784	7.5" X 15"	6/65's	19.85 lbs	0.936 ft	10/4

Disinfectants on either List P or List K (effective against *C. difficile* spores) can be expected to be effective against *C. auris*, per the "Guidance for the Efficacy Evaluation of Products for Claims against Drug-Resistant *Candida auris*"; https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/guidance-efficacy-evaluation-products-claims-against-drug-resistant-candida#test-criteria

References:
[1]https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/index.html
[2]https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/pdf/Candida_auris_508.pdf
[3]Piedrahita, Christina T., et al. "Environmental surfaces in healthcare facilities are a potential source for transmission of *Candida auris* and other *Candida* species." infection control & hospital epidemiology 38.9 (2017): 1107-1109
[4]Welsh, Rory M., et al. "Survival, persistence, and isolation of the emerging multidrug-resistant pathogenic yeast *Candida auris* on a plastic health care surface." Journal of clinical microbiology 55.10 (2017): 2996-3005
[5]Biswal, M., et al. "Controlling a possible outbreak of *Candida auris* infection: lessons learnt from multiple interventions." Journal of Hospital Infection 97.4 (2017): 363-370.
[6]https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/tracking-c-auris.html

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