

IDRS Infectious Disease Reporting System

Disease Reporting 24 Hours a Day

Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health

CANDIDA AURIS

Candida auris, or “*C. auris*” is a concerning multi-drug resistant fungus that can cause life-threatening illness in certain people.

Symptoms

- Symptoms can vary by organism and site of infection, and some individuals may have no symptoms.
- *C. auris* can cause many different types of infections, including bloodstream, urinary tract infections (UTIs), wound and ear infections.

Transmission

- *C. auris* is spread from person-to-person or from contaminated surfaces or equipment.
- In healthcare settings, *C. auris* is spread mainly through the hands of healthcare workers and direct contact with contaminated environmental surfaces or medical equipment.
- It can cause infections when it enters the body, often through medical devices including ventilators, intravenous catheters, urinary catheters, or wounds cause by injury or surgery.
- *C. auris* can potentially survive on surfaces for several weeks.
- Healthy individuals usually are not affected.

Treatment

- A class of antifungal drugs called echinocandins are the recommended initial treatment for *C. auris* infection.
- Some infections may be more difficult to treat as they are often resistant to antifungal medications.
- Treatment is generally only indicated if signs and symptoms of infection are present.
- Even after treatment for infections, individuals generally remain colonized with *C. auris* for long periods and, perhaps indefinitely.

Prevention

- Tell your doctor if you have been hospitalized in another facility or country.
- Expect healthcare providers to wash their hand before or after providing medical care to you. If they do not, ask them to do so.
- Wash your hands often, especially:
 - Before preparing or eating foods
 - Before or after changing wound dressings or bandages
 - After using the bathroom
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Take precautions if caring for someone with *C. auris* at home, such as careful hand washing, wearing gloves when anticipating contact with body fluids or blood, and not discarding body fluids or human waste in sinks.

All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.



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