

Candida auris

A drug-resistant yeast that spreads in healthcare facilities

Overview











Candida auris (*C. auris*) is an emerging pathogenic fungus first identified in 2009. This fungus can colonize the skin and has been isolated from multiple infection sites in the body. *C. auris* can cause serious invasive infections such as bloodstream infections. There are limited antifungal drugs used to treat *Candida* infections, but like other “superbugs,” *C. auris* is often resistant to one or more of these medications. Additionally, *C. auris* can be difficult to identify using standard laboratory testing and is often misidentified, which can delay treatment and implementation of precautions. In healthcare settings—which are responsible for most, if not all, cases—a primary route of *C. auris* transmission is through contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment and from patient to patient. These factors can make it difficult to control its spread in healthcare settings.^{1,2,3}

About the Pathogen & Infection Control Measures

Infectious Agent (Pathogen)	Agent Type: Fungus Taxonomy: ▶ Family: Saccharomycetes ▶ Genus: <i>Candida</i>	▶ Species: <i>Candida auris</i> ▶ Strain: Clades I-V Synonym(s): <i>C. auris</i>
Infectious Characteristics Definitions: ▶ Incubation period—the time from exposure to infection with symptoms. ▶ Period of communicability—time when a pathogen can be transmitted from one person to another ▶ Mortality rate—the number of deaths due to a disease divided by the total population.	Risk factors:⁴ Incubation period: Period of communicability: Duration of illness: Severity of illness and Mortality Rate:⁶	▶ Multiple or prolonged healthcare stays, particularly in long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs) and ventilator-capable skilled nursing facilities (vSNFs) ▶ Presence of invasive devices (e.g., tracheostomy) ▶ Mechanical ventilation ▶ Recently received antimicrobials Unknown Colonization: no signs or symptoms Active Infection: Fever and chills that don't improve after antibiotic treatment for a suspected bacterial infection. Varies Severity can range from no symptoms (e.g., colonization) to severe invasive infections such as bloodstream infections. Mortality ranges from 30–60%.
Mode(s) of Transmission⁵ How the Infection Spreads	Contact: Direct from person-to-person and indirect from contaminated environmental surfaces or equipment.	
Survival on Surfaces⁶	Days to several weeks	
Immunization/Prophylaxis/Treatment²	There is no vaccine for <i>C. auris</i> . Most <i>C. auris</i> infections are treatable with a class of antifungal drugs called echinocandins. However, some <i>C. auris</i> infections are resistant to all three main classes of antifungal medications, making them more difficult to treat. In this situation, multiple classes of antifungals at high doses may be required to treat the infection.	
Infection Control Measures	General Measures for Non-Healthcare Spaces (commercial buildings, K-12 schools, etc): ▶ <i>C. auris</i> is not a threat to the general public or otherwise healthy individuals. ⁷	Healthcare-Specific Measures:⁸ ▶ Isolation Precautions: Acute care settings: Contact precautions; Long-term care settings: Contact precautions or Enhanced Barrier Precautions. Continue precautions for duration of stay. ▶ PPE: Gown and gloves ▶ Linen management: per routine ▶ Waste management: per routine ▶ Other: Patient should be placed in a private room or cohort <i>C. auris</i> patients when appropriate. Consider dedicating healthcare personnel to care for <i>C. auris</i> patients. Notify the receiving facility or unit of patients with <i>C. auris</i> infection or colonization status.
Cleaning & Disinfection⁸	Perform thorough routine (at least daily) and terminal cleaning and disinfection of patient rooms and other areas where patients receive care using a disinfectant from either EPA List P or List K. Focus on shared mobile equipment, which should be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Adhere to the disinfectant manufacturers' directions for use, including the correct contact time. Some products with <i>C. albicans</i> or fungicidal claims may not be effective against <i>C. auris</i> , and accumulating data indicate that products solely dependent on quaternary ammonia compounds (QACs) are NOT effective.	

Clorox Product Recommendations:

The following CloroxPro cleaner disinfectants can be used to effectively manage *Candida auris* on environmental surfaces and equipment:

Products for use against <i>Candida auris</i>	EPA Reg. No.	<i>C. auris</i> contact time (EPA LIST P)	<i>C. diff</i> contact time (EPA LIST K)
Clorox Healthcare® Bleach Germicidal Wipes Item No. 30577 6" x 5" Wipes Canister 6/150 ct. Item No. 35309 6.75" x 9" Wipes Canister 6/70 ct. Item No. 32621 6.75" x 9" Wipes Softpack 9/100 ct. Item No. 31424 6.75" x 9" Individual Wipes 6/50 ct. Item No. 30358 12" x 12" Wipes Bucket 2/110 ct. Item No. 30359 12" x 12" Wipes Bucket Refill 2/110 ct. 	67619-12	3 minutes	3 minutes
Clorox Healthcare® Bleach Germicidal Cleaners Item No. 30577 6/32 fl. oz. Spray Item No. 68832 6/32 fl. oz. Pull-Top Item No. 68978 4/128 fl. oz. Refill 	56392-7	3 minutes	3 minutes
Clorox Healthcare® Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes Item No. 30824 6.75" x 9" Wipes Canister 6/95 ct. Item No. 30825 6.75" x 5.75" Wipes Canister 6/155 ct. Item No. 30826 12" x 11" Wipes Bucket 2/185 ct. Item No. 30827 12" x 11" Wipes Bucket Refill 2/185 ct. 	67619-25	2 minutes	-
Clorox Healthcare® Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant Liquids Item No. 30828 9/32 fl. oz. Spray Item No. 31444 6/32 fl. oz. Pull-Top Item No. 30829 4/128 fl. oz. Refill 	67619-24	2 minutes	-
Clorox Healthcare® Spore¹⁰ Defense® Cleaner Disinfectant Item No. 32122 4/128 fl. oz. for Total 360® Devices Item No. 32409 4/128 fl. oz. Ready-to-use 	67619-40	3 minutes	5 minutes
Fuzion® Cleaner Disinfectant Item No. 31478 9/32 fl. oz. Spray 	67619-30	-	90 seconds
Dispatch® Hospital Cleaner Disinfectant Towels with Bleach Item No. 69150 6.75" x 8" Canister 8/150 ct. 	56392-8	-	3 minutes
Clorox® Germicidal Bleach Item No. 30966 3/121 fl. oz. Bottle 	67619-32	-	3 minutes

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