



***Candida auris*: Cleaning and Disinfection Updates and Mandatory Admissions**

Date: July 15, 2021

Public Health Message Type: Alert Advisory Update Information

Intended Audience: All public health partners Healthcare providers Infection preventionists
 Local health departments Schools/child care centers ACOs
 Animal health professionals Other:

Key Points

- 1) *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) is an emerging pathogen that is classified as a multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) of urgent threat by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Healthcare facilities that identify or suspect *C. auris* cases and transfers of known *C. auris* cases to facilities in other states should contact local health departments and the New Jersey Department of Health (see "Contact Information").
- 2) If healthcare facilities can provide adequate care for *C. auris* positive individuals, these healthcare facilities should not deny admission to patients based upon their *C. auris* diagnosis. There are misconceptions that *C. auris* treatment and infection prevention and control (IPC) practices are cumbersome and complex. Resources provided below (and attached) can guide those facilities that have questions on how to proceed.
- 3) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released List P (see "Resources"), a list of antimicrobial products registered for claims against *C. auris*, which should be utilized for regular, daily, and terminal cleanings to disinfect supplies, equipment, surfaces, etc. with which *C. auris* positive (i.e. colonized or infected) patients come in contact with.

Specifics:

Candida auris: An Emerging Multidrug-resistant Pathogen

- *C. auris* was first identified in New Jersey in 2017. Classified as an inherently MDRO of urgent public health threat by the CDC, *C. auris* can colonize individuals, lead to infection especially among immunocompromised individuals, and once infected may cause serious illness or fatality.
- Healthcare facilities who identify suspect or positive *C. auris* cases should contact the NJ Department of Health for further education and guidance regarding management and response activities.

Infection Prevention and Control

- *C. auris* can be managed and most IPC practices are consistent regardless of MDRO. Short-term hospitalized patients who are identified to be colonized (asymptomatic) or infected (symptomatic) should remain on contact precautions for the duration of their care.
- Residents in long-term care facilities should typically be on enhanced barrier precautions (see "Resources"), unless excretions cannot be contained or transmission to other individuals is documented or suspected in which case they should be maintained on contact precautions until those conditions are no longer met.
- Regardless of healthcare facility type, all personnel should adhere to hand hygiene (alcohol-based hand rub is effective against *C. auris* is the CDC recommended method in most situations, see "Resources"),

proper personal protective equipment, and visit *C. auris* positive patients last during routine rounds. Individuals should be in single rooms, if possible, or cohorted with other *C. auris* positive patients.

Disinfection Practices' Update:

- *C. auris* is an environmentally hardy organism and requires specific products for disinfection (List P—see “Resources”).
- Disposable supplies for individual patients are preferred to circumvent the need to disinfection altogether, and where possible, dedicated equipment should be provided for *C. auris* patient care to reduce risk of transmission.
- Regardless, all reusable equipment should be disinfected with the Environmental Protection Agency’s registered products with *C. auris* claims—named List P. Environmental services should also utilize List P products when performing routine and terminal cleaning of patients’ or residents’ living quarters.

Resources:

1. List P: Antimicrobial Products Registered with EPA for Claims Against *Candida Auris*: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-p-antimicrobial-products-registered-epa-claims-against-candida-auris>
2. Enhanced Barrier Precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>
3. Hand Hygiene FAQs: <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faqs/hand-hygiene.html>

Contact Information:

- Gabriel Innes, Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Surveillance Coordinator, NJDOH; Email: Gabriel.innes@doh.nj.gov
- Adrienne Sherman, Healthcare-associated Infections/AR Epidemiologist, NJDOH; Email: Adrienne.Sherman@doh.nj.gov
- Rebecca Greeley, Infectious Disease Team Lead, NJDOH; Email: Rebecca.Greeley@doh.nj.gov
- NJDOH Communicable Disease Service, (609) 826-5964 during business hours