



Candida auris in New Jersey Guidance Update

Date: February 19, 2020

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:

- *Candida auris* (or *C. auris*) is a fungus that is causing serious infections in patients in the United States, including New Jersey. *C. auris* is primarily found in healthcare settings, particularly in long-term acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities that take care of patients on ventilators.
- The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) responds to all reports of *C. auris*. As of February 13, 2020, 158 clinical confirmed cases of *C. auris* have been reported in New Jersey. The oldest known case in New Jersey was retrospectively identified from a culture collected in June 2015.

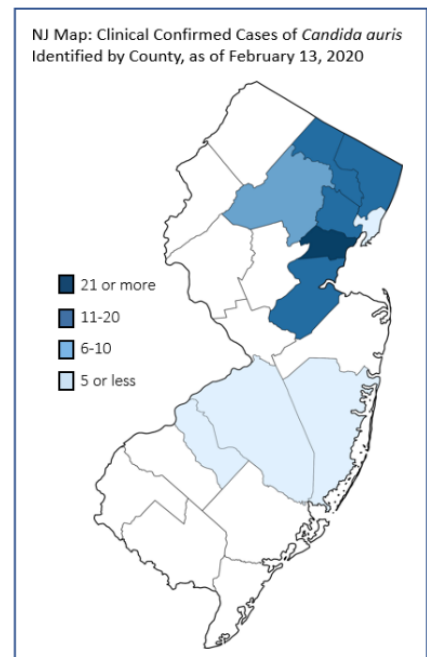
Updates:

(1) Cleaning Products

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of products that can be used to disinfect surfaces against *C. auris*. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of these EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectants, as well as products that have been identified to be effective against *C. auris* per testing at CDC. A list of appropriate products can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/c-auris-infection-control.html#disinfection>.

(2) Enhanced Barrier Precautions

- The CDC released interim guidance on the use of personal protective equipment and room restrictions in **nursing homes** to address management of residents colonized with novel and emerging antimicrobial pathogens, including *C. auris*. This guidance introduces the concept of Enhanced Barrier Precautions, which recommends use of gown and gloves for certain residents during specific high-contact resident care activities. Detailed guidance can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>.



Action Items:

- If *C. auris* is suspected or identified, contact your local health department (localhealth.nj.gov) or the NJDOH Communicable Disease Service at (609) 826-5964.
- Healthcare facilities, clinicians, and laboratorians should review CDC recommendations for *C. auris* to ensure they are prepared to identify, report, and respond to *C. auris*. Guidance is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/health-professionals.html>.
- Healthcare facilities that care for or receive patients who have been identified with *C. auris* should follow all CDC recommendations to prevent spread of the organism.
- Ensure that the patient's *C. auris* status is communicated to all receiving healthcare facilities. Facilities that care for patients with *C. auris* should include the attached *C. auris* case transfer form in the patient's transfer paperwork.
- Facilities that have not received or identified patients with *C. auris* should still review CDC guidance and ensure basic infection prevention infrastructure is in place.

Contact Information:

- Tara Fulton, Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Epidemiologist, at Tara.Fulton@doh.nj.gov or (609) 826-5964, or
- Contact your local health department (localhealth.nj.gov)

References and Resources:

- NJDOH Resources available at: <https://nj.gov/health/cd/topics/cauris.shtml>
 - *Candida auris* Case Transfer Information Sheet
 - Infection prevention and control recommendations for *Candida auris* in skilled nursing and subacute rehabilitation facilities
 - *Candida auris* in New Jersey: Considerations for New Jersey Healthcare Facilities
 - *Candida auris* Information for Laboratorians and Health Professionals (CDC): www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/health-professionals.html
 - *Candida auris* Fact Sheets (CDC): www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/fact-sheets/index.html
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