

# WHAT IS *CANDIDA AURIS*?

- *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) is a healthcare-associated, pathogenic organism that can cause significant morbidity and mortality among infected individuals, and is often multidrug resistant, which complicates treatment options.
- Patients at high-risk for acquiring *C. auris* include those with invasive mechanical ventilation; indwelling lines, tubes, or devices; immunocompromising conditions; history of broad-spectrum antibiotic or anti-fungal use; prior admissions to healthcare facilities located in areas with relatively high *C. auris* case counts; and recent or prolonged admissions to long-term care and ventilator-capable skilled nursing facilities.
- Patients with *C. auris* may be colonized without symptoms or infected with severe symptoms present. Both colonized and infected patients can spread *C. auris* directly (from direct contact) and indirectly (from contaminated objects and the environment).
- *C. auris* is persistent and can remain in the environment for weeks. However, EPA-registered List P products can effectively clean and disinfect medical supplies, equipment, and surfaces.

## HOW TO STOP THE SPREAD OF *C. AURIS* IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

- Prior to entering patient rooms, always follow room signage that indicate necessary transmission-based precautions.
- Proactively develop or adopt your facility's protocols and plan of action for *C. auris* infection control and containment
- Be mindful of the basic pillars of effective infection prevention and control: hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection with effective cleaning products (List P), personal protective equipment use, and auditing and compliance monitoring.
- Early identification, isolation, and investigation are critical to contain *C. auris*. Immediately report any suspected or confirmed cases of *C. auris* to the New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service at **DOH.CDS.HAIAR.EPI@doh.nj.gov**