

Candida auris (also called *C. auris*) is a fungus that causes serious infections. More than 1 in 3 patients with invasive *C. auris* infection (for example, an infection that affects the blood, heart, or brain) die. There are simple steps to take to prevent *C. auris* from spreading in your facility.

Infection Prevention Checklist



1. Place residents with *C. auris* infection or colonization on appropriate infection prevention precautions:
 - a. **Contact Precautions** (gown and gloves for **all room entries**): if resident has acute diarrhea, draining wounds, or other sites of secretions or excretions that are unable to be covered or contained **OR** if there is a suspected or confirmed *C. auris* outbreak on the unit **OR** if the resident has another infection (like *C. difficile* or norovirus) that needs Contact Precautions.
 - i. This requires a private room.
 - ii. People can remain colonized with *C. auris* for long periods of time and potentially indefinitely. Discontinuing Contact Precautions for residents with a history of *C. auris* is generally not recommended.
 - b. **Enhanced Barrier Precautions** [gown and gloves for **high-contact resident care activities** (e.g., dressing, bathing, transferring, providing hygiene, changing linens, changing briefs/helping with toileting, device care or use, wound care)]: if resident does not meet criteria for Contact Precautions above.
 - i. No private room required; resident is not restricted to their room.
 - ii. For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>
 - c. Place a sign on the resident's door to indicate the type of precautions and personal protective equipment (PPE) needed
2. Notify resident and staff of positive *C. auris* test (See 'How to share the news' below).
3. Ensure environment of care disinfecting products being used for this resident's room are on approved EPA list P (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-p-antimicrobial-products-registered-epa-claims-against-candida-auris>). *C. auris* can survive on surfaces for weeks, so cleaning/disinfection is key!
4. Notify your local health department (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-department-locator/>). They will discuss how to prevent *C. auris* from spreading in your facility, which may include screening other residents to see if they also have *C. auris*.
5. Increase auditing of infection prevention strategies
 - a. Hand hygiene
 - b. PPE use
 - c. Environmental cleaning and disinfection

- Make sure the resident's *C. auris* status is communicated if the resident is transferred within the facility or another facility so that appropriate prevention strategies can remain in place. Example of an interfacility communication form (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/toolkits/Interfacility-IC-Transfer-Form-508.pdf>

C. auris: How to Share the News



1. **To the resident and those authorized to receive health information:**

You (or your loved one) has tested positive for *Candida auris* (we also call it *C. auris*). *C. auris* is a drug-resistant germ (fungus) that can spread from person to person.

If the resident has a *C. auris* infection: The *C. auris* is currently causing an infection in your [wound/blood/urine] and we will be treating this infection.

If the resident is colonized or colonization screening is positive: You are not sick from *C. auris* right now but the germ could still spread to other residents or staff.

We will be taking extra precautions like wearing gowns and gloves [and giving you care in your room, whenever possible (if the resident is on Contact Precautions)] to make sure the germ doesn't spread to others. We will also be washing our hands a lot and encourage you to do the same.

2. **To healthcare workers:** This resident is now positive for *C. auris* and requires [Contact Precautions or Enhanced Barrier Precautions]. You must wear gown and gloves [every time you go into the room (if contact precautions) / every time you are doing a high-contact resident care activity (if enhanced barrier precautions)], clean equipment after use, and always do good hand hygiene. *C. auris* can cause healthcare outbreaks. This puts all our residents at risk so it is important to be consistent with these infection prevention measures.

Additional Resources



CDC - *Candida auris* webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/>

- Fact sheets for residents and family members about colonization, testing, and general Q&A
- Fact sheet for infection preventionists

VDH - *Candida auris* webpage (see "Infection Prevention Resources" section):

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/diseases-organisms/candida-auris/>

- More details on prevention strategies in long-term care facilities
- "Rapid Resource" education for residents and nonclinical healthcare workers on the essentials of *C. auris* and testing; education for clinical healthcare workers on caring for patients with *C. auris*