

***Candida auris* cases detected in Tennessee**

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) has confirmed the first cases of locally acquired *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) in the state.

Situation:

During January 2022, TDH's Healthcare Associated Infections program and State Public Health Laboratory confirmed the state's first documented case of *C. auris*. In response, TDH has been working closely with stakeholders to monitor for additional cases and to implement recommended measures to limit further spread. Subsequent testing has identified additional *C. auris* cases. [Several states](#) surrounding Tennessee have previously identified cases. TDH is working closely with healthcare facilities and public health colleagues at the state and local level.

Background:

C. auris is a type of yeast that can cause high morbidity and mortality, outbreaks in healthcare settings, and can be highly drug resistant. Patients can be asymptomatically colonized for long periods of time, even after an active infection is resolved. A patient is considered colonized indefinitely regardless of prior treatment. Patients who are colonized, or who have had an infection in the past, should be placed on contact precautions whenever admitted to a healthcare facility. Decolonization treatment is not currently recommended. The risk of *C. auris* infection in healthy individuals, including healthcare personnel, is extremely low.

Action Items for Tennessee Healthcare Providers and Facilities:

- Report confirmed *C. auris* cases, and suspect *C. auris* isolates. See [reportable](#) disease list.
 - *C. auris* can be misidentified as other types of yeasts depending on identification method. CDC's algorithm for confirming potential misidentifications by identification method may be found [here](#).
- Send confirmed and suspect isolates to the Tennessee State Public Health Laboratory in Nashville for additional testing. Instructions may be found [here](#).
- Place patients colonized with *C. auris* and patients with confirmed or suspect *C. auris* on contact precautions.
 - If a patient is suspected of colonization, the TDH HAI/AR Program can provide screening swabs to the provider or facility free of charge.
- Clean using List P products. *C. auris* requires thorough daily and terminal cleaning.

Resources:

- [CDC Healthcare Professionals FAQs](#)
- [CDC General Information on *C. auris*](#)
- [EPA's List P: Antimicrobial Products Registered with EPA for Claims Against *Candida auris*](#)

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