

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

## Initial Actions to Prevent Spread of *Candida auris*

When *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) is identified or suspected in a patient, there are a few infection prevention steps that you can take to prevent transmission to additional patients. The goal is to prevent or slow the spread to additional patients by appropriately isolating patients, using an appropriate disinfectant for environmental cleaning, improving practices like hand hygiene and appropriate use of personal protective equipment. In general, *C. auris* only affects those who are chronically ill and have additional risk factors like indwelling medical devices and significant health care exposure. Furthermore, staff members are generally not at risk of colonization or infection.

Here are the steps that your facility should take now:

- 1. Place the patient with *C. auris* in appropriate isolation.** If available, place the patient in a private room. Ensure the patient is placed on contact precautions in addition to any transmission-based precautions deemed necessary by their medical provider. Continue contact precautions until you receive further direction from the Health Care-Associated Infection (HAI) Prevention Program with the Florida Department of Health or follow-up communication from the county health department. Any additional transmission-based precautions should be managed by the medical provider. If the patient is transferred to another facility, ensure the facility is informed of the need for appropriate isolation.
- 2. Send suspect or confirmed *C. auris* isolates to the state Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL).** Ensure your laboratory or partnered laboratory has shipped the isolate to BPHL for additional testing.
- 3. Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved disinfectant labeled for use with *C. auris*.** EPA-approved disinfectants for *C. auris* are included in List P. List P can be accessed here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-p-antimicrobial-products-registered-epa-claims-against-candida-auris#check>—look to see if your existing disinfectant is approved, and if not, begin using an approved product immediately. EPA-approved products should be easily accessible throughout the facility and used for cleaning and disinfection of the patient room and medical equipment used on the patient. Shared environments and shared medical equipment can transfer *C. auris*, so it is essential to clean these surfaces and items well.
- 4. Strengthen infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and education among all health care workers, including the medical care team, environmental services and ancillary staff.**
  - a. Retrain and audit staff on the appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
  - b. Improve hand hygiene compliance and frequently audit staff to ensure they are performing appropriate hand hygiene. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water are appropriate.
  - c. Regularly disinfect shared spaces and shared medical equipment (e.g., blood pressure machine, portable X-ray, shared stethoscopes, lifts, physical therapy equipment) with an appropriate List P EPA-approved disinfectant.
  - d. Train all staff on *C. auris* and make sure information is easily accessible.
- 5. A point-prevalence survey may be necessary on roommates and units that the patient was housed in during their stay.** The HAI team will provide more information if this is necessary.

The FDOH HAI Prevention Program will be in contact with you to provide additional information and discuss additional next steps. Please feel free to reach out to your local county health department or contact the HAI Prevention Program at [hai\\_program@flhealth.gov](mailto:hai_program@flhealth.gov).

Additional Resources: [Infection Prevention and Control for \*Candida auris\*](#)

**Florida Department of Health**  
**Division of Disease Control and Health Protection**  
**Bureau of Epidemiology**  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-12 • Tallahassee, FL 32399-1701  
PHONE: 850/245-4401 • FAX: 850/413-9113  
**FloridaHealth.gov**

