



### **What is *C. auris* and why is it a problem?**

*C. auris* is a yeast that can cause severe illness and spreads easily among sick patients in healthcare settings. Infections caused by *C. auris* are difficult to treat and have a high risk of death because it is often resistant to antifungal medications.

### ***C. auris* in or on the body without symptoms**

Colonization means patients have *C. auris* on their skin or in other body sites without symptoms. Patients can remain colonized with *C. auris* for a long time. Patients can spread *C. auris* to surfaces and objects around them and to other patients.

### **How is *C. auris* spread?**

*C. auris* spreads by contact with patients infected or colonized with *C. auris*. *C. auris* is also spread to patients indirectly through healthcare workers' hands and on contaminated shared medical equipment and high-touch surfaces. Sink drains and toilets can be reservoirs that contribute to transmission.

### **Who is at risk?**

Hospital patients and long-term care facility residents, especially those who:

- Receive complex medical care, including those who have invasive medical devices
- Have long-term overuse of antimicrobials
- Need help with activities like toileting, bathing, and dressing
- Have severe or chronic wounds
- Were admitted to the same room or unit as a person with *C. auris*
- Received inpatient healthcare or medical procedures outside the US in the last 6 months

### **How can facilities prevent the spread of *C. auris*?**

- [Notify](#) all healthcare providers on *C. auris* status, even when transferring a patient
- Test patients for *C. auris* to guide infection control actions in healthcare facilities
- Perform frequent hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water if hands are soiled or ABHR is not available
- Wear a gown and gloves when caring for patients with *C. auris*
- Clean and disinfect the patient environment, sink areas, and shared medical equipment using disinfectants effective against *C. auris* ([EPA List P](#))
- Make sure PPE, disinfectants, and ABHR are accessible at the point of patient care
- Keep patient care items at least three feet away from sinks