

Request from CDC- Fungal Reference laboratory

Dear clinical microbiology colleagues,

CDC requests that laboratories who identify a confirmed a suspected of *Candida auris* isolate notify their state or local public health department and CDC (candidaauris@cdc.gov). Please also consider querying your laboratory information systems as far back as January 1, 2013 for past isolates to report to CDC.

Why should laboratories notify public health about *C. auris*?

- *C. auris* is an emerging multidrug-resistant (MDR) yeast that has caused outbreaks of invasive healthcare-associated infections with high mortality.
- Some strains of *C. auris* have elevated minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) to the three major classes of antifungals, severely limiting treatment options.
- *C. auris* appears to be transmitted from patient to patient in healthcare settings.
- Several *C. auris* cases have already been identified and reported from the United States and CDC anticipates that there have been and will be more cases of *C. auris*; prompt notification is necessary for immediate public health action.
- Read more at <http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/candida-auris-alert.html>.

How can laboratories identify *C. auris*?

- Diagnostic instruments based on matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight (MALDI-TOF) can differentiate *C. auris*, but not all devices currently include *C. auris* in the reference database to allow for detection.
- Molecular methods based on sequencing the D1-D2 region of the 28s rDNA can also identify *C. auris*.
- Diagnostic methods other than MALDI-TOF and sequencing may not be able to distinguish *C. auris* from other yeasts.

When should laboratories suspect *C. auris*?

- *C. auris* can be misidentified as
 - *Candida haemulonii* (typical identification by VITEK 2 and some MALDI-TOF systems)
 - *Candida* spp.
 - *Candida famata*
 - *Candida sake*
 - *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
 - *Rhodotorula glutinis*
- Identification of any of these species should prompt further characterization using the identification methods described above. Laboratories are encouraged to forward these specimens through state public health laboratories to CDC for further characterization.

Thank you,
CDC Mycotic Diseases Branch

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