

## Inclusion of *Candida auris* as a Reportable Disease Condition under Title 17,<sup>1</sup> effective September 2022

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### What is *Candida auris*?

- *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) is a drug-resistant yeast which can be resistant to all three available classes of antifungals. *C. auris*:
  - can cause serious infections, including in blood, with mortality rates of up to 70%<sup>2</sup>;
  - can persist in the healthcare environment for weeks, where it can easily spread through contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment, and person-to-person transmission; and
  - is responsible for large outbreaks in California hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.<sup>3,4</sup>

#### Who will report *C. auris*?

- Healthcare providers and laboratories should report *C. auris* cases. Laboratories must report via electronic laboratory reporting to the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE).<sup>1</sup>
- Healthcare providers can use the *C. auris* case report form via CalREDIE to report additional facility and epidemiological information for a case.

#### What is reportable?

- Per the updated case definition,<sup>5</sup> healthcare providers and laboratories should report the following results:
  - Detection of *C. auris* in a specimen using either culture or a validated culture-independent test (e.g., nucleic acid amplification test [NAAT])
- Do not report initial findings unless *C. auris* is identified in a specimen. For example, do not report a preliminary finding of “*Candida* species” prior to species identification; however, do report a preliminary finding of “*Candida auris*”.

#### What are the specimen submission requirements?

- Laboratories must submit all *C. auris* isolates from sterile site specimens (e.g., blood) to a public health laboratory within 10 working days.
- Laboratories currently submitting isolates directly to the regional public health laboratory<sup>6</sup> in Washington state automatically fulfill this requirement, and do not need to submit additional isolates to a California local or state public health laboratory unless specifically requested to do so.
- If requested by public health, laboratories must attempt to obtain a fungal culture isolate from a specimen site (sterile or non-sterile) for submission as soon as available to the public laboratory for the local health jurisdiction where the patient resides.
- Laboratories can batch isolates for submission.
- Public health will conduct further testing on isolates submitted, including identification confirmation, antifungal susceptibility testing, and possibly whole genome sequencing.

#### How does this new reporting requirement affect existing local health department *C. auris* reporting requirements?

- The updated Title 17 reporting requirements do not change more stringent local health department reporting requirements (e.g., some jurisdictions might require submission of all *C. auris* isolates). Per California state regulations, *C. auris* is a healthcare provider- and laboratory-reportable condition. For further clarification, contact the relevant local health department.

## When is it important to identify *C. auris*?

- Identify all *Candida* isolates from normally sterile sites to the species level; these isolates likely indicate invasive infection requiring treatment.
- Identify *Candida* isolates from non-sterile sites to the species level:
  - when clinically indicated for patient care;
  - for additional case detection (prospective surveillance);
  - for patients at high-risk for *C. auris* acquisition, such as those from long-term acute care hospitals, ventilator-equipped skilled nursing facilities, or known *C. auris* outbreak facilities, or who are close healthcare contacts of a *C. auris* case, colonized or infected with a carbapenemase-producing organism, or had an overnight healthcare exposure abroad in the past year.

## What test methods are best for identifying *C. auris*?

- *C. auris* can be misidentified by some yeast identification methods. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide guidance for when to suspect *C. auris*.<sup>7</sup>
- For surveillance (screening) purposes, NAAT methods such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) produce more timely and actionable results than culture-based test methods.
- CDPH encourages all clinical laboratories to develop *C. auris* clinical and screening testing in-house, or access testing at a reference laboratory.<sup>8</sup>
- Free *C. auris* testing services at some public health laboratories are available to all California healthcare facilities.
  - Submit *Candida* isolates to your local public health laboratory to access local, state, and regional testing resources.<sup>9</sup>
  - Facilities can participate in the Targeted Surveillance Program by routinely submitting any non-*albicans* *Candida* isolates to the regional public health laboratory for *C. auris* identification and antifungal susceptibility testing.<sup>10</sup>

## Where can I find additional resources?

- See the [CDPH website on \*C. auris\* for Public Health and Healthcare Providers](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Candida-auris.aspx) ([www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Candida-auris.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Candida-auris.aspx)).

---

<sup>1</sup> [CDPH Reportable Diseases and Conditions](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Reportable-Disease-and-Conditions.aspx) ([www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Reportable-Disease-and-Conditions.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Reportable-Disease-and-Conditions.aspx))

<sup>2</sup> Cortegiani A, Misseri G, Fasciana T, Giammanco A, Giarratano A, Chowdhary A. Epidemiology, clinical characteristics, resistance, and treatment of infections by *Candida auris*. *J Intensive Care*. 2018;6:69. doi:10.1186/s40560-018-0342-4

<sup>3</sup> [CDPH California Health Alert Network Antimicrobial Resistance-related Health Advisories](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/CAHAN.aspx) ([www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/CAHAN.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/CAHAN.aspx))

<sup>4</sup> Karmarkar EN, O'Donnell K, Prestel C, et al. Rapid assessment and containment of *Candida auris* transmission in postacute care settings—Orange County, California, 2019. *Ann Intern Med*. 2021;174(11):1554-1562. doi:10.7326/M21-2013

<sup>5</sup> [Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists \*C. auris\* Position Statement](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/ps/ps2022/22-ID-05_C_auris.pdf) (PDF) ([cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/ps/ps2022/22-ID-05\\_C\\_auris.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/ps/ps2022/22-ID-05_C_auris.pdf))

<sup>6</sup> [CDC Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory \(AR Lab\) Network](http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/ar-lab-networks/domestic.html) ([www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/ar-lab-networks/domestic.html](http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/ar-lab-networks/domestic.html))

<sup>7</sup> [CDC Identification of \*C. auris\*](http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/recommendations.html#suspect) ([www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/recommendations.html#suspect](http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/recommendations.html#suspect))

<sup>8</sup> [List of Laboratories with \*C. auris\* Testing Capacity](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/List_C.aurisLabs.pdf) (PDF) ([publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/List\\_C.aurisLabs.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/List_C.aurisLabs.pdf))

<sup>9</sup> Please use CDPH Microbial Diseases Laboratory (MDL) form 'Fungus Culture for Identification-448' to submit *Candida* isolates for further testing. See the [MDL website for the most updated submission form and instructions](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/MDLSubmissionInstructionsandForms.aspx) ([www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/MDLSubmissionInstructionsandForms.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/MDLSubmissionInstructionsandForms.aspx)). Some local public health laboratories also provide *C. auris* testing services; please contact your local health department.

<sup>10</sup> [AR Lab Network Targeted Surveillance Flyer](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CDPH_ARLN_TargetedSurveillanceDescription_052521.pdf) (PDF)

([www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CDPH\\_ARLN\\_TargetedSurveillanceDescription\\_052521.pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CDPH_ARLN_TargetedSurveillanceDescription_052521.pdf))