



Provider/Laboratory Advisory

August 8, 2019

Detection and Reporting of Emerging Drug Resistant *C. auris*

Background:

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) provides the following update to healthcare providers, infection control practitioners, and laboratorians on the detection and reporting of multi-drug resistant *Candida auris* (*C. auris*)

Candida auris is an emerging multidrug-resistant fungus that presents a serious global health threat. It can cause invasive infections with high mortality, and can be transmitted easily in healthcare settings. As of May 31, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified 715 cases of *C. auris* in 12 states. Most *C. auris* cases in the United States have been detected in the New York City area, New Jersey, and the Chicago area. An additional 1,341 patients have been found to be colonized with *C. auris* by targeted screening in 10 states with clinical cases. No cases of *C. auris* have been reported in Rhode Island.

Laboratory Identification:

C. auris can be difficult to detect, as conventional biochemical identification has not been reliable. Facilities should suspect *C. auris* if:

- An isolate is identified as *Candida haemulonii* or another unusual species of *Candida*
- An isolate is identified as *Candida* and unable to be further speciated
- An increase in unidentified *Candida* species infections in a patient care unit is identified

Laboratories experiencing an increase in unidentified *Candida* species infections or identification of rare *Candida* species should report the occurrence as described below.

Infection Prevention Measures:

Patients with *C. auris* infection or colonization should be placed in a single patient room on contact precautions. Since *C. auris* can persist on surfaces in health care environments, CDC recommends daily and terminal cleaning and disinfection of rooms of patients with *C. auris* using an Environmental Protection Agency-registered hospital-grade disinfectant effective against *Clostridium difficile* spores.

Reporting:

C. auris infection is reportable in Rhode Island under [216-RICR-30-05-1](#). Section 1.5.4.B.6 states that outbreaks are required to be reported and include "A single case of rare and/or unusual diagnoses, including but not limited to avian influenza, smallpox, Ebola, SARS, Zika, *Borrelia miyamotoi*, *Candida auris*, or human rabies."

Any healthcare provider or laboratorian who suspects or identifies *C. auris* in a patient should notify the Center for Acute Infectious Disease Epidemiology (CAIDE) at RIDOH at 401-222-2577 to arrange confirmatory identification of the organism. CAIDE will provide colonization screening guidance and assistance to healthcare institutions as appropriate.

Additional Resources:

[Candida auris: A drug-resistant yeast that spreads in healthcare facilities](#)

[Procedure for collection of patient swabs for Candida auris](#)

[Candida auris: Lab Worker Fact Sheet](#)

[Candida auris: Lab Testing Algorithm](#)

Rhode Island healthcare providers

[Unsubscribe](#) <<Email Address>> from this list | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update your profile](#)

Copyright (C) 2011 Rhode Island Department of Health. All rights reserved.