

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH)

### *Candida auris* for Skilled Nursing Facilities

*C. auris* is a drug-resistant yeast that has become endemic in Los Angeles County. Good compliance with basic infection control measures can prevent the spread of *C. auris*. **All skilled nursing facilities should become familiar with the strategies outlined below to admit and manage *C. auris*-positive residents.**

#### **DO:**

- **Admit** suspect or confirmed *C. auris* residents to the best of your abilities.
- Refer to the [CDPH Enhanced Standard Precautions](#) guidance to **determine which type of transmission-based precautions (TBP)** to apply and how to [cohort with other residents](#).
  - In general, LACDPH recommends the following TBP for *C. auris*:
    - Contact Precautions during *C. auris* outbreak or if resident has other indications (e.g., acute diarrhea, draining wound, [Tier 1 or 2 MDRO per LACDPH MDRO Containment Tiers](#))
    - Enhanced Standard Precautions for high-risk residents (i.e., indwelling devices and/or unhealed wounds)
    - Standard Precautions for all other residents
- **Ensure your facility staff adhere to basic infection control measures** to prevent spread. Facility leadership should conduct regular [audit and feedback](#) to maintain good compliance. These include:
  - Practice hand hygiene (HH). Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is effective against *C. auris*.
  - Use personal protective equipment (PPE) properly.
  - Thoroughly clean and disinfect the patient care environment and shared equipment with a disinfectant that is effective against *C. auris* ([EPA List P](#), or can use [EPA List K](#) and follow instructions for *C. difficile*).
- **Screen non-positive residents transferred from long-term acute care hospitals and subacute units for *C. auris* colonization upon admission** at your facility. Follow appropriate TBP as outlined above while pending results.
- Communicate *C. auris* status upon discharge. Use an [inter-facility transfer form](#) and attach relevant labs.
- **Flag medical records of *C. auris*-positive residents** to place them on appropriate TBP upon future admissions.
- **Report** new colonizations and all clinical identifications of *C. auris* via the [LACDPH MDRO Reporting Portal](#).

#### **DO NOT:**

- **Be scared.** *C. auris* is just like any other multi-drug resistant organism – as long as your staff consistently implements basic infection control practices (see above), you have a strong chance at preventing spread. *C. auris* outbreaks in LA County nursing homes have been rare and small.
- **Refuse residents** based purely on *C. auris* status. If your facility can provide the care needed, you should admit.
- **Re-screen residents** with history of *C. auris* positive tests for clearance. *C. auris* can colonize residents for years and may test intermittently negative. Consider them as positive even if they had a recent negative screen result.
- Report single cases to CDPH Licensing & Certification. ***C. auris* is only reportable to LACDPH if it is identified from a specimen collected at your facility.** Do not report *C. auris* if your facility did not collect the specimen.
- **Request facilities perform *C. auris* screening prior to discharge.** Since results can take a few days, there is a chance they may acquire *C. auris* between when the swab was collected to when they are discharged.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- LACDPH *C. auris* website: [publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/CandidaAuris.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/CandidaAuris.htm)
  - Mitigating the spread of *C. auris* in LA County: [publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/MitigatingSpreadofC.aurisLAC.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/MitigatingSpreadofC.aurisLAC.pdf)
- CDPH *C. auris* website: [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Candida-auris.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Candida-auris.aspx)
- CDC *C. auris* website: [www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/c-auris-infection-control.html](http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/c-auris-infection-control.html)
- LACDPH Transfer Guidance for MDROs: [publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/LACDPH\\_TransferringGuidanceforMDROs.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/LACDPH_TransferringGuidanceforMDROs.pdf)

More questions or concerns? Email the LACDPH Healthcare Outreach Unit at [hai@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:hai@ph.lacounty.gov)