



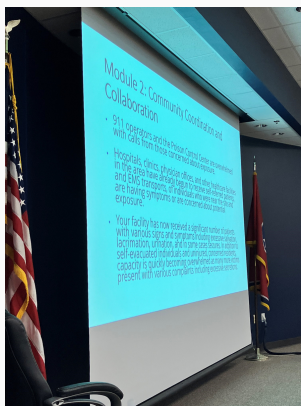
the  
**WATCH**  
coalition

## **CHEMPACK EXERCISE NEWS!**

CAPTAIN DAN SMILEY LED OUR CHEMPACK EXERCISE THAT WE HAD ON FEBRUARY 8TH. WE HAD A GREAT TURNOUT FROM DIFFERENT AGENCIES AND WE WERE ABLE TO SEE WHAT IMPROVEMENTS NEED TO BE MADE ACROSS THE COUNTIES AND HOW WE CAN BETTER HELP EACH OTHER. WE REALIZED THAT COMMUNICATION IS A HUGE FACTOR AND WE WORKED ON STEPS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION.

WE ALSO DECIDED THAT WE NEEDED TO PUT SOME OF THESE CONCERNS INTO PRACTICE AND PRACTICE THEM IN REAL TIME.

OVERALL, THE DAY WAS GREAT AND WE WERE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW WE CAN BETTER SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE EVENT OF A DISASTER.



MARCH 1, 2024  
ISSUE 8

## **THIS ISSUE:**

CHEMPACK EXERCISE

SAVE THE DATE

COALITION MEETING LINK

EDUCATION: CANDIDA AURIS

SOCIAL MEDIA

MARCH AWARENESS MONTH

MARCH FUN!





**March 12th - HRTS Bed Update Training.**  
TEAMS Invite was sent out

**March 20th - Coalition Meeting at 1:00 at**  
Jackson Madison County Regional Office

**April 17-19th - EMAG + R4 ASPR Meeting**  
in Savannah Georgia

**April 23rd - LTCF/SNF/AL/Dialysis/ Home**  
Health /Hospice virtual meeting. Link will be  
sent out via email

**April 30th- May 2nd - EMAT in**  
Murfreesboro. Registration is now open.

**June 6th - MRSE Exercise - Virtual**

*Save the Date*

TEPS Conference

October 29th & 30th, 2024

Humboldt Conference Center

More details to come



## NEW COALITION MEETING LINK

WHILE WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE  
YOU ALL IN PERSON, WE  
UNDERSTAND NOT EVERYONE  
CAN MAKE IT TO THE COALITION  
MEETINGS. BELOW IS THE ZOOM  
LINK TO USE WHEN LOGGING IN  
TO THE MEETING.

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82  
241372230?  
PWD=CED0EK9IMUXLDVEXWMTX  
U2KYC0FKUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82241372230?pwd=CED0EK9IMUXLDVEXWMTXU2KYC0FKUT09)

MEETING ID: 822 4137 2230  
PASSCODE: 612238







# *Candida auris*: A drug-resistant germ that spreads in healthcare facilities

*Candida auris* (also called *C. auris*) is a fungus that causes serious infections. Patients with *C. auris* infection, their family members and other close contacts, public health officials, laboratory staff, and healthcare workers can all help stop it from spreading.

## Why is *Candida auris* a problem?



**It causes serious infections.** *C. auris* can cause bloodstream infections and even death, particularly in hospital and nursing home patients with serious medical problems. More than 1 in 3 patients with invasive *C. auris* infection (for example, an infection that affects the blood, heart, or brain) die.



**It's often resistant to medicines.** Antifungal medicines commonly used to treat *Candida* infections often don't work for *Candida auris*. Some *C. auris* infections have been resistant to all three types of antifungal medicines.



**It's becoming more common.** Although *C. auris* was just discovered in 2009, it has spread quickly and caused infections in more than a dozen countries.



**It's difficult to identify.** *C. auris* can be misidentified as other types of fungi unless specialized laboratory technology is used. This misidentification might lead to a patient getting the wrong treatment.



**It can spread in hospitals and nursing homes.** *C. auris* has caused outbreaks in healthcare facilities and can spread through contact with affected patients and contaminated surfaces or equipment. Good hand hygiene and cleaning in healthcare facilities is important because *C. auris* can live on surfaces for several weeks.

## How do I know if I have a *Candida auris* infection?

*C. auris* is still rare in the United States. People who get invasive *Candida* infections are often already sick from other medical conditions, so it can be difficult to know if you have a *C. auris* infection. The most common symptoms of invasive *Candida* infection are fever and chills that don't improve after antibiotic treatment for a suspected bacterial infection. Only a laboratory test can diagnose *C. auris* infection. Talk to your healthcare provider if you believe you have a fungal or healthcare-associated infection.



Most people who get serious *Candida* infections are already sick from other medical conditions.



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

# Stopping the spread of *Candida auris*

CDC is working with public health partners, healthcare workers, and laboratories to stop the spread of *C. auris* in healthcare settings. Here's how CDC is asking everyone to help:



## Family members and other close contacts of patients with *C. auris*

- » Clean your hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water before and after touching a patient with *C. auris* or equipment in his or her room.
- » Remind healthcare workers to clean their hands.



## Laboratory staff, healthcare workers, and public health officials

- » Know when to suspect *C. auris* and how to properly identify it.
- » Report cases quickly to public health departments.
- » For healthcare workers, clean hands correctly and use precautions like wearing gowns and gloves to prevent spread.
- » Clean patient rooms thoroughly with a disinfectant that works against *C. auris*.
- » Investigate *C. auris* cases quickly and determine additional ways to prevent spread.
- » Check the CDC website for the most up-to-date guidance on identifying and managing *C. auris*: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/recommendations.html>.



## Scientists are still learning about *Candida auris*

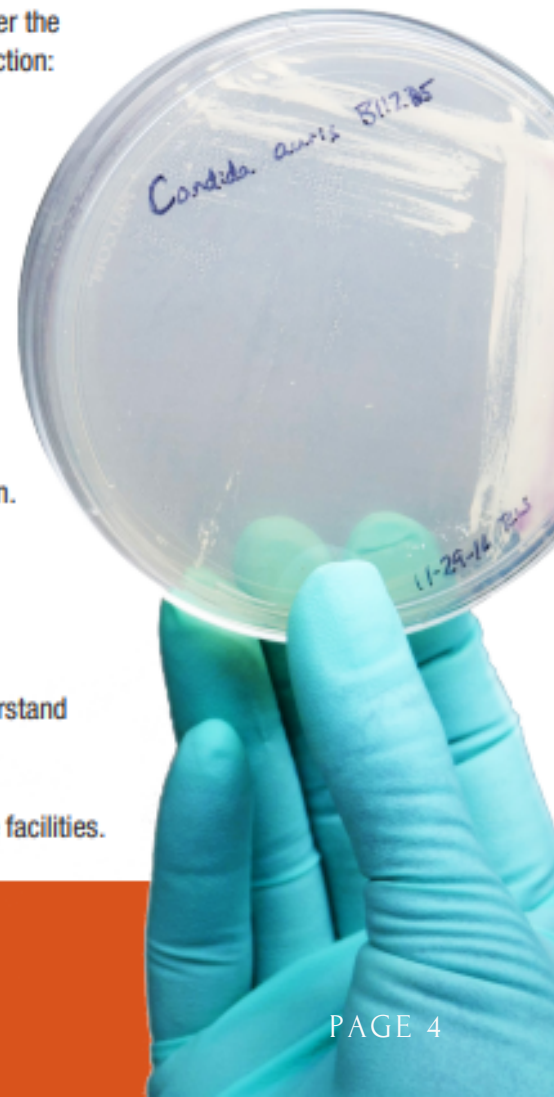
CDC and public health partners are working hard to better understand *C. auris* and answer the following questions so that we can continue to help protect people from this serious infection:

- Why is *C. auris* resistant to antifungal medicines?
- Why did *C. auris* start causing infections in recent years?
- Where did *C. auris* originally come from, and why has it appeared in many regions of the world at the same time?

## What is CDC doing?

CDC is collaborating closely with partners to better respond, contain spread, and prevent future infections by:

- Advising healthcare workers and infection control staff on ways to stop the spread of *C. auris* and continually updating this guidance as we learn more about the infection.
- Working with state and local health agencies, healthcare facilities, and clinical microbiology laboratories to ensure that laboratories are using proper methods to detect *C. auris*.
- Testing *C. auris* strains to monitor for resistance to antifungal medicines.
- Examining the DNA of *C. auris* strains using whole genome sequencing to better understand how this germ is spreading in the United States and around the world.
- Working with public health partners in the United States and internationally to learn more about how *C. auris* spreads in healthcare facilities and to eliminate it from those facilities.



### For more information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases  
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases  
Telephone 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) Web <http://www.cdc.gov/fungal>





# WATCH Coalition

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WATCH Healthcare Coalition

We are the WATCH Healthcare Coalition. We serve 17 Counties in strengthening the regional response to disasters.  
[www.watchcoalition.org](http://www.watchcoalition.org)



**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products Effective Against Candida auris [List P]**

Search EPA's list of registered disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

US EPA / Feb 26

WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE OUR EMTS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO ENSURE THEY ARE USING DISINFECTANTS TO KILL CANDIDA AURIS

[CANDIDA AURIS DASHBOARD \(TN.GOV\)](http://CANDIDA.AURIS.DASHBOARD.TN.GOV)



- BRAIN INJURY
- MUTIPLE SCLEROSIS
- CEREBRAL PALSY
- KIDNEY CANCER
- COLORECTAL CANCER
- MULTIPLE MYELOMA

## CAUCUS GROUP NEWS!

WHAT CAUCUS GROUPS DOES THE COALITION HAVE AND WHERE DO I FIT IN?

### GROUPS

DIALYSIS / HOSPICE / HOME HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH

LONG TERM CARE / ASSISTED LIVING / SKILLED NURSING

EMS



MARCH 12TH AT 10 AM, WE WILL HAVE OUR 2ND HRTS BED UPDATE TRAINING. A TEAMS INVITE WAS SENT OUT AND GINGER WILL BE ON THE TEAMS CALL UNTIL 11AM IF YOU HAVE ANY HRTS BED UPDATE QUESTIONS.



# MARCH



## TV COMMERCIALS

FILL IN BLANK WITH EACH PRODUCT OF THE COMMERCIAL LINES

THAT WAS EASY \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_

YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE THE WAY YOU LOOK... I GUARANTEE \_\_\_\_\_

FLY THE FRIENDLY SKIES OF \_\_\_\_\_

I CAN'T BELIEVE I ATE THE WHOLE THING \_\_\_\_\_

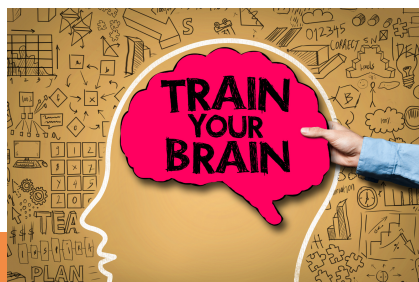
IT KEEPS GOING AND GOING AND GOING \_\_\_\_\_

A LITTLE DAB'LL DO YA \_\_\_\_\_

MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH, NOT IN YOUR HANDS \_\_\_\_\_

THE BEST PART OF WAKING UP IS \_\_\_\_\_ IN YOUR CUP

JUST DO IT \_\_\_\_\_





# CONTACT US

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## MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

JAMES FOUNTAIN, CHAIR

LORI BROWN, 1ST CHAIR

JONATHAN WOOD, 2ND CHAIR

CHRIS WINSCHER, SECRETARY

LYN TISDALE, TREASURER

# VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.WATCHCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.WATCHCOALITION.ORG)

