

You can help prevent the spread of *C. auris*.

If you test positive for *C. auris*:

Every time you seek medical care, tell your provider about your history of *C. auris* infection and/or colonization.

Health care personnel will wear gloves and gowns when caring for you. These precautions are taken in health care settings to reduce the chance of spreading *C. auris* to other patients.



Health care personnel should always clean their hands before and after touching any patient, medical equipment or surfaces in the room. If they do not clean their hands, ask them to do so.

Your doctor has determined you are:

colonized

infected

with *C. auris*.

Where can I get more information on *C. auris*?

Learn more about *C. auris* on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at [CDC.gov/Candida-Auris](https://www.cdc.gov/Candida-Auris).

MDHHS also has more information on its website at [Michigan.gov/HAI](https://www.michigan.gov/HAI) or reach out to your local health department.



Contact Us

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[Michigan.gov/HAI](https://www.michigan.gov/HAI)

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Candida *auris* and You

Essential information
for people living with
Candida auris (*C. auris*).

What is *C. auris*?

C. auris is a drug-resistant germ (fungus) that can spread in health care facilities. *C. auris* can colonize or live on the skin, in the urine, or in the lungs without causing symptoms (known as colonization), sometimes for a long time. However, *C. auris* can also cause serious infections in the body, including the bloodstream.

How is *C. auris* spread?

There are two ways *C. auris* can spread:

- **Direct spread:** When someone touches a person who has *C. auris*.
- **Indirect spread:** When someone touches a surface or object that has *C. auris* on it. (Ex. counters, medical equipment or bedding.)

Why is *C. auris* a problem?

- ✓ *C. auris* can make you very sick or you can have no symptoms, which is called colonization.
- ✓ *C. auris* can live on a person's skin and other body sites for many months or even years. It can also live on surfaces for several weeks.
- ✓ *C. auris* can spread quickly from person to person or surface to surface, even if you do not have symptoms.
- ✓ *C. auris* can cause life threatening infections and may be resistant to medications making it difficult to treat.

Living with *C. auris* at home?

There are no special precautions needed at home once you have been discharged from a health care facility.

It is important that you and your family follow good general hygiene practices.

Always wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer:

- Before preparing or eating food.
- After using the bathroom.
- Before and after touching any wounds or medical devices that you may have.

Use your own towels and face cloths. Do not share these items with other people.

Cover any wounds with a bandage whenever possible.

No special cleaning is required in your home.

Your clothing may be washed in the usual manner, along with the rest of the household laundry.

All eating utensils and dishes can also be washed as normal.

You do not need to take special precautions around your pets.

Can my family members get *C. auris*?

Healthy family members, in general, are not at risk of *C. auris*.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) does not recommend family members, or otherwise healthy close contacts of patients with *C. auris* infection or colonization, be tested for *C. auris*. In general, healthy people are not at risk of *C. auris* and do not need to be tested.



If you have *C. auris*, family members and others caring for you should:

- Wash their hands before and after touching you and your medical devices.
- Let their health care providers know they are caring for loved ones diagnosed with *C. auris*, especially if they are admitted to a health care facility for inpatient care.