

Public Health Risk Alert - Candida Auris: A drug-resistant yeast that spreads in healthcare facilities

A serious public health risk is challenging healthcare professionals across the country right now. A fungal and often drug-resistant infection, Candida Auris (C. Auris) - which affects individuals with weakened immune systems and frail elderly in nursing homes and hospital settings - is on the rise. C. Auris is multidrug-resistant.

Patients can remain colonized with C. Auris for a long time and C. Auris can even persist on surfaces in healthcare environments. As of April 30th, 2019, there have been 643 cases, with New York City alone having 319 confirmed cases. Infections have been found in patients of all ages, from preterm infants to the elderly.

One of the main reasons for the growing number of germs that have evolved defenses against common medicines is due to the overuse of antibiotics. Please remain vigilant and ensure appropriate antibiotic medication utilization.

For more information about this outbreak, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/>