

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Patrick Galange, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 23, 2025

RE: New Diseases of Public Health Significance – *Candida auris* (*C. auris*)

QUICK FACTS

- *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) has been added to the list of Diseases of Public Health Significance (DoPHS) and is reportable to the Medical Officer of Health (MOH).
- *C. auris* is a fungal pathogen that has low prevalence but is often multi-drug-resistant and can cause serious infections.
- *C. auris* is concerning in healthcare settings, especially among immunocompromised patients, as it is highly transmissible and has a high case fatality rate.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- *C. auris* is primarily transmitted in healthcare settings. Risk factors include prolonged hospital stays, invasive medical devices, and immunocompromised states. Overall prevalence is low.
- Clinical presentation is often non-specific and may present with fever, chills, or sepsis.
- *C. auris* is often misidentified as other *Candida* species using traditional laboratory methods. Accurate identification requires specialized laboratory techniques (e.g., MALDI-TOF, NAAT). Ensure that any suspected case of *C. auris* is sent to a specialized laboratory for confirmation.
- Promptly report *C. auris* cases to Halton Region Public Health by calling 311, no later than the next business day.
- Healthcare facilities who experience a case of *C. auris* are advised to implement strict infection prevention and control measures (e.g., isolation, contact precautions, hand hygiene, equipment and environmental cleaning plus disinfection), and enhanced surveillance.
- Ensure a *C. auris* diagnosis is communicated during any transfer of care.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Ministry of Health – [Appendix 1: Case Definitions and Disease Specific Information: *Candida auris*](#), January 2025
- Public Health Ontario – [Candida auris](#)
- Public Health Ontario – [Management of a Single New Case of *Candida auris* \(*C. auris*\)](#)
- Public Health Ontario – [Candida auris reference identification and susceptibility testing](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.