

Adult Foster Home Provider Alert

Policy updates, rule clarifications and announcements

Date: January 5, 2022
To: APD Adult Foster Home Providers
From: Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit
Topic: **Interfacility Transfers During Candida Auris Outbreak**

The Department would like to share an urgent message about the recent *Candida auris* outbreak. *Candida auris* also known as *C. auris*, is a serious fungal infection that is often resistant to multiple antifungal medications. *C. auris* is a type of yeast that can cause severe illness, particularly those suffering from serious medical conditions in hospitals and congregate living facility settings.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) continues to investigate the state's first outbreak of *Candida auris* infection at Salem Health. No additional cases have been identified since OHA's press release on 12/28/2021 (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/bulletins/3030234>). Updates through press releases can be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/ERD/Pages/News-Releases.aspx>.

As this investigation proceeds, OHA recommends that all Oregon healthcare facilities and laboratories remain vigilant by preparing to rapidly identify *C. auris* cases and to quickly implement appropriate infection control precautions when cases are identified.

As with any other multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO), decisions to discharge an infected or colonized patient from one level of care to another should be based on clinical criteria and the ability of the accepting facility to provide care—not on the presence or absence of *C. auris* infection or colonization or potential exposure to *C. auris*. Receiving health care facilities should be able to implement appropriate [transmission-based precautions](#) for *C. auris* as they would for other MDROs. Facilities that care for patients with other MDROs or *Clostridioides difficile* are also capable of caring for patients with *C. auris*.

Facilities may contact Oregon Health Authority's Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program if they would like to discuss care for patients with *C. auris*. As usual, clear interfacility transfer communication is required to ensure appropriate precautions are taken when patients with this MDRO are being transferred between healthcare facilities.

In the context of the current *C. auris* outbreak, OHA's HAI Program recommends that [transmission-based precautions](#) be implemented when:

- Patient being transferred has known *C. auris* infection
- Patient being transferred has known *C. auris* skin colonization (identified through surveillance testing)
- Patient being transferred has been identified as having potential *C. auris* exposure and has not completed surveillance testing for skin colonization. In this situation, OHA's HAI Program can work with the receiving facility to conduct surveillance testing upon admission.

Healthcare Facility Resources for *C. auris*:

- Transmission-Based Precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/fact-sheets/cdc-message-infection-experts.html>
- Surveillance & Laboratory identification:
- <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/c-auris-surveillance.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/identification.html>
- Resources for Patients and Families: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/patients-qa.html>

Please direct questions regarding this alert to the Oregon Health Authority HAI Program Contacts (Heather Hertzelt at heather.hertzelt@state.or.us and Dat Tran at dat.j.tran@state.or.us); or to the on-call ACDP epidemiologist at 971-673-1111.

If you have any questions, please email the policy team at APD.AFHteam@dhosha.state.or.us.