



Oregon

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NF-22-002 – Provider Alert

Date: January 5, 2022

To: All Nursing Facility Providers
All Assisted Living Providers
All Residential Care Facility Providers

From: Aging and People with Disabilities
ODHS Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit (SOQ)

Subject: Interfacility transfers during *Candida auris* outbreak

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 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 resident 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 residents 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:

- Resident being transferred has known *C. auris* infection
- Resident being transferred has known *C. auris* skin colonization (identified through surveillance testing)
- Resident 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-ga.html>

Please direct questions regarding this alert to the Oregon Health Authority HAI Program Contacts (Heather Hertzelt at heather.hertzelt2@state.or.us and Dat Tran at dat.j.tran@state.or.us); or to the on-call ACDP epidemiologist at 971-673-1111.