

Durham Region Health Department Facts about...



# Candida auris (C. auris)

# What is it?

*C. auris* is a fungus that sometimes cannot be treated with medications. It is very contagious and can cause illness in any body part, including the blood or a wound. *C. auris* often spreads in healthcare settings and can cause serious disease including death.

#### What do I look for?

*C. auris* can cause many different types of infections, from wound and ear infections to bloodstream infections (candidemia). *C. auris* can cause severe infections and death in people who are already weak or sick. Some people that have *C. auris* have no symptoms, however they can still pass the infection to others. Symptoms can be nonspecific and may include fever, chills, and generally feeling unwell.

## How is it treated?

*C. auris* can be hard to treat because it does not respond to many different medications. A health care provider can decide the best treatment.

## How can I protect myself?

For the general public, basic infection prevention and control (IPAC) should be followed which includes frequent hand hygiene by washing hands and using alcohol-based hand rubs. In a hospital or long-term care setting, the IPAC lead in the facility will provide specific advice.

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