

DRUG-RESISTANT **CANDIDA AURIS**

THREAT LEVEL **URGENT**



323
Clinical cases
in 2018



90% Isolates resistant to at least **one** antifungal
30% Isolates resistant to at least **two** antifungals

Candida auris (*C. auris*) is an emerging multidrug-resistant yeast (a type of fungus). It can cause severe infections and spreads easily between hospitalized patients and nursing home residents.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- *C. auris*, first identified in 2009 in Asia, has quickly become a cause of severe infections around the world.
- *C. auris* is a concerning drug-resistant fungus:
 - Often multidrug-resistant, with some strains (types) resistant to all three available classes of antifungals
 - Can cause outbreaks in healthcare facilities
 - Some common healthcare disinfectants are less effective at eliminating it
 - Can be carried on patients' skin without causing infection, allowing spread to others

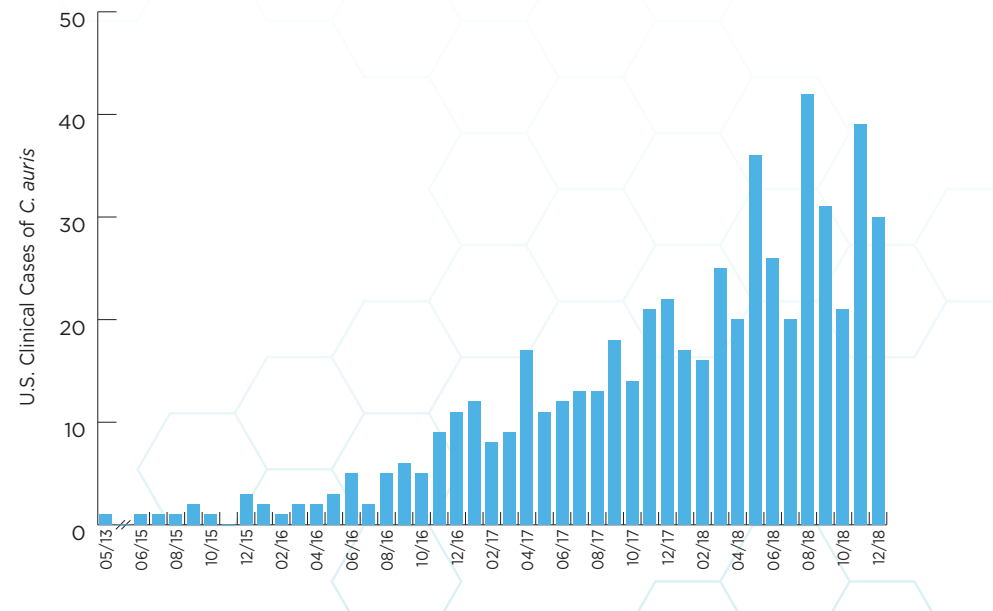
Data represents U.S. cases only. Isolates are pure samples of a germ.



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

CASES OVER TIME

C. auris began spreading in the United States in 2015. Reported cases increased 318% in 2018 when compared to the average number of cases reported in 2015 to 2017.



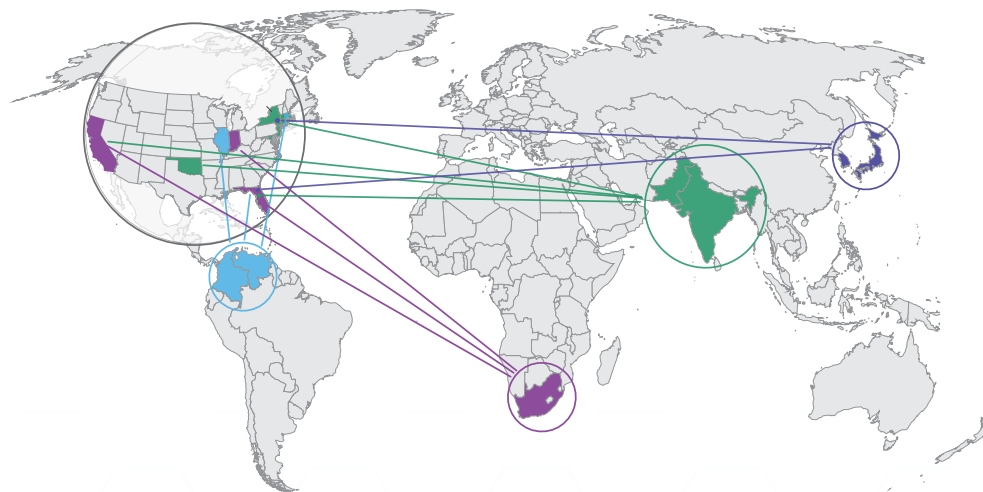
CONTAINING *C. AURIS*

It seemed hard to believe. CDC fungal experts had never received a report describing a *Candida* infection resistant to all antifungal medications, let alone *Candida* that spreads easily between patients. After hearing the news that infections like this were identified by international colleagues in 2016, CDC sounded the alarm in the United States about *C. auris*, a life-threatening *Candida* species.

Disease detectives from CDC and state and local health departments soon investigated some of the first U.S. *C. auris* infections. They learned more about how the fungus spreads, and how CDC, health departments, and healthcare facilities can contain it. A key finding was that *C. auris* spreads mostly in long-term healthcare facilities among patients with severe medical problems. CDC and partners developed new tests to rapidly identify it, and continue to work with healthcare facilities to control spread.

A GLOBAL THREAT

Investigators still do not know why four different strains of *C. auris* emerged around the same time across the globe. All four strains have been found in the United States, likely introduced through international travel and subsequent spread in U.S. healthcare facilities.



- South American strain— Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts
- African strain— California, Florida, Indiana
- South Asian strain— California, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Oklahoma
- East Asian strain— Florida, New York



ONLINE RESOURCES

About *C. auris*

www.cdc.gov/fungal/Candida-auris/index.html

Information for Laboratorians and Healthcare Professionals

www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/health-professionals.html