

ADVISORY: *Candida auris* added as Disease of Public Health Significance

January 10, 2025

Key Information:

- Effective January 1, 2025, *Candida auris* has been designated as a Disease of Public Health Significance (DoPHS)
- Only laboratory-confirmed cases must be reported
- Ontario regulation 135/18 and O. Reg. 569 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act have been amended

Situation:

Due to the emergence of *Candida auris* cases in hospitals and long-term care facilities across the United States, Ontario has amended Ontario regulation 135/18 (Designation of Diseases) to add *C. auris* as a DoPHS. The parallel amendments to O. Reg. 569 (Reports) were made to specify the reporting requirements to Medical Officers of Health. Only laboratory confirmed cases must be reported.

Candida auris has been identified as a significant public health threat due to its ability to cause outbreaks in healthcare settings and its resistance to multiple classes of antifungal medications. Symptoms are often nonspecific and can resemble other common infections, making prompt diagnosis and treatment challenging. *C. auris* can cause a range of infections, including wound, ear, and bloodstream infections, which can lead to sepsis.

Resources:

- Ontario Public Health Standards *Candida auris* appendix
 - Case definitions and disease-specific information
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-12/moh-ophs-candida-auris-appendix-en-2025-01-02.pdf>
- *Candida auris* resources
 - Ontario Investigation Tool
 - iPHIS user guide coming soon
 - www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Diseases-and-Conditions/Health-Care-Associated-Infections/Candida-auris