

LONG TERM CARE INFECTIOUS DISEASE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Georgia Long Term Care Infectious Disease Educational Program Biannual e-Newsletter:

Winter 2024

Welcome, we're glad you're here.

Another perk of attending a Georgia Long Term Care Infectious Disease Educational Program - Foundations/Principles Course is gaining access to this biannual newsletter curated for nursing home staff members like you.

Click [here](#) to download a PDF version of this e-newsletter.

Be sure to check out our webpage for other helpful resources.

[GA LTCIDEP Webpage](#)

Reminder - Watch Our Testimonial Video!



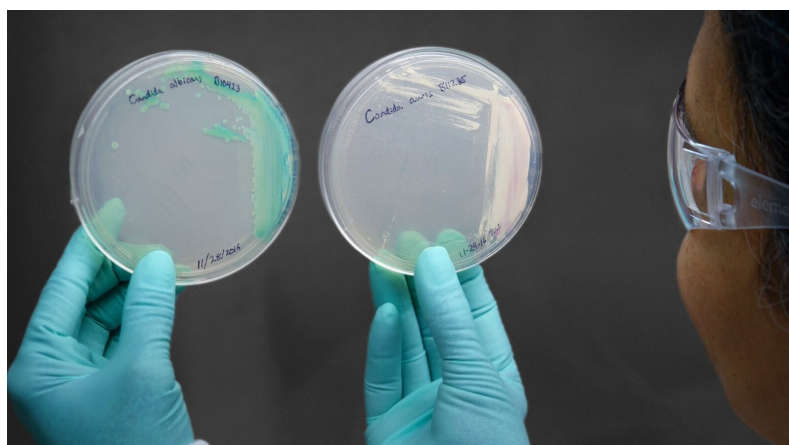
Upcoming Courses:

Click [here](#) to download a full schedule with links to register for our FREE one-day courses with 6 hours of NAB CE credits for Administrators.

Remember, infection prevention is everyone's responsibility.

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|------------------------|-------------|---|---|----------------------|
| FEB 22, 2024 (THURS) | FOUNDATIONS | L | UGA TIFTON CONFERENCE CENTER 15 BIRC ROAD, TIFTON, GA 31794 | HERE |
| FEB 29, 2024 (THURS) | FOUNDATIONS | F | HATCHER CONFERENCE CENTER 100 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, MACON, GEORGIA 31206 | HERE |
| MARCH 7, 2024 (THURS) | FOUNDATIONS | N | KSU CENTER 3333 BUSBEE DRIVE, MARIETTA, GA 30146 | HERE |
| MARCH 8, 2024 (FRI) | PRINCIPLES | D | COURTARD BY MARIOTT DECATUR DOWNTOWN 130 CLAIREMONT AVE, DECATUR, GA 30030 | HERE |
| MARCH 22, 2024 (FRI) | FOUNDATIONS | J | ARMSTRONG CENTER 13040 ABERCORN STREET, SAVANNAH, GA 31419 | HERE |
| APRIL 4, 2024 (THURS) | FOUNDATIONS | B | RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER AT LANIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE 2535 LANIER TECH DRIVE, GAINESVILLE, GA 30607 | HERE |
| APRIL 11, 2024 (THURS) | PRINCIPLES | M | COASTAL PINES TECHNICAL COLLEGE 1701 CARSWELL AVENUE, WAYCROSS, GA 31503 | HERE |
| APRIL 12, 2024 (FRI) | PRINCIPLES | H | OFTC DUBOSE PORTER TRAINING CENTER 560 PINEHILL ROAD, DUBLIN, GA 31021 | HERE |

Focus Area: Candida Auris



Candida auris is a type of fungal infection known to cause severe illness in those who are already suffering from infections often in long term care and other healthcare facilities. C. auris is difficult to treat because it is resistant to standard antifungal medicines. In the US, the number of cases went up to 2,377 by 2022, and in Georgia alone, there were 473 cases by December 2023.

More than 1 in 3 patients with C. auris die within one month of diagnosis. Your facility's infection prevention and control program is critical in stopping the spread of the infection.

Symptoms & Testing

While there is no distinguishable set of symptoms for C. auris, symptoms are similar to other infections caused by bacteria. This drug-resistant germ can cause infections in different parts of the body like the bloodstream, ears, and open wounds. Symptoms can vary depending on the location and severity of the infection. **The most common symptoms of C. auris are fever and chills that don't improve after antibiotic treatment.**

C. auris can easily be misidentified and can only be confirmed using lab testing. Disease confirmation is important for proper treatment. If for any reason you suspect that one of your residents may have a C. auris infection, discuss your concern with your supervisor and with your facility's infection prevention specialist. Further conversation with a DPH medical epidemiologist may be indicated for guidance on whether cultures are needed and how to obtain them.

There are two tests that your facility can use to confirm if a resident is infected with C. auris:

- Colonization Screening: The resident's skin should be swabbed by rubbing a swab near their armpits and groin. This swab can be sent to a laboratory for testing.
- Clinical Specimen Testing: Symptomatic residents may need to provide specimens of blood or urine for testing.

The CDC has an [informational flyer](#) for more details on testing those with suspected C. auris infections.

Retesting individuals infected or colonized with C. auris is not recommended and should not be used to change infection control measures because it does not ensure they no longer has C. auris on their skin or other body sites and a negative test will not ensure that C. auris will not be spread to others.

Risk Factors

Usually, C. auris does not cause harm to healthy people. C. auris mainly impacts those who have severe underlying medical conditions or those who require complex medical care. Invasive medical devices including feeding tubes or urinary catheters can also increase a resident's risk of C. auris infection.

However, C. auris can also colonize or grow on **anyone's** skin without making them sick or have an infection. Residents, staff, or family members can have C. auris colonize on their skin or other body sites and transfer the infection onto surfaces and objects they come into contact with.

Preventing Spread

Healthcare providers should take special steps in order to prevent the spread of C. auris. This includes placing the resident in a room that is separated from other residents who are at risk. Providers should clean the rooms with proper disinfectants. Not all disinfectants kill C. auris, so check the Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)) [List P](#) for a full list of disinfectants that are effective in killing the germ.

Residents with C. auris will continue to have it on their skin and other body sites for a long time after first being diagnosed. Your facility should determine the prevention measures for your residents on a case-by-case basis according to your facility's policies and procedures.

More Information

For more information, the CDC has created a **two-page Fact Sheet** with basic information on C. auris, how to stop the spread, and what the CDC is doing.

Also from the CDC, is a [printable two-page flyer](#) designed for infection preventionists. It contains information and resources on how to prepare your facility for C. auris and what to do should you find C. auris in your facility.

Include this two minute CDC [YouTube Video](#) with all the basic information on C. auris in your next infectious disease training.

[Facebook Page](#)

References

- [CDC About Candida auris \(C. auris\)](#)
- [UC Davis Health](#)
- [Candida auris Testing Information for Patients](#)
- [CDC Fact Sheet](#)
- [CDC More Information Sheet](#) CDC Flyer for Infection Preventionists
- [YouTube Video](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) List P - EPA Registered Disinfectants to Kill Candida Auris](#)