



Georgia Department of Public Health: Strike & Support Team GADPH Office Hours for Medical Directors, NHs & SNFs April 21, 2023



Meet the Team



Presenters:

Swati Gaur, MD, MBA, CMD, AGSF Medical Director, Alliant Health Solutions

JoAnna M. Wagner, RN, BSN, BHSA, CIC

Nurse Epidemiologist/Lead Infection Preventionist

Healthcare-Associated Infections Team

Georgia Department of Public Health



Swati Gaur, MD, MBA, CMD, AGSF

MEDICAL DIRECTOR, POST-ACUTE CARE NORTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM

Dr. Swati Gaur is the medical director of New Horizons Nursing Facilities with the Northeast Georgia Health System. She is also the CEO of Care Advances Through Technology, a technology innovation company. In addition, Dr. Gaur is on the electronic medical record (EMR) transition and implementation team for the health system, providing direction to EMR entity adaption to the long-term care (LTC) environment. She has also consulted with post-acute long-term care (PALTC) companies on optimizing medical services in PALTC facilities, integrating medical directors and clinicians into the QAPI framework, and creating frameworks of interdisciplinary work in the organization. Dr. Gaur established the palliative care service line at the Northeast Georgia Health System.

She also is an attending physician in several nursing facilities. Dr. Gaur attended medical school in Bhopal, India, and started her residency in internal medicine at St. Luke's–Roosevelt Medical Center in New York. She completed her fellowship in geriatrics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and is board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, hospice, and palliative medicine. In addition, she earned a master's in business administration at the Georgia Institute of Technology with a concentration in technology management.



JoAnna M. Wagner, RN, BSN, BHSA, CIC

JoAnna has been with the Georgia Department of Public Health since 2016 and is currently the nurse epidemiologist/lead infection preventionist for the Acute Disease and Epidemiology Section, Healthcare-Associated Infections Team. She leads a team of eight infection preventionists whose focus is the investigation of outbreaks in healthcare facilities involving multi-drug resistant organisms. She has been involved with COVID-19 response for long-term care facilities since March 2020. She has been a nurse for 23 years and has worked as an infection preventionist for 19 years.



Thank You to Our Partners

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia





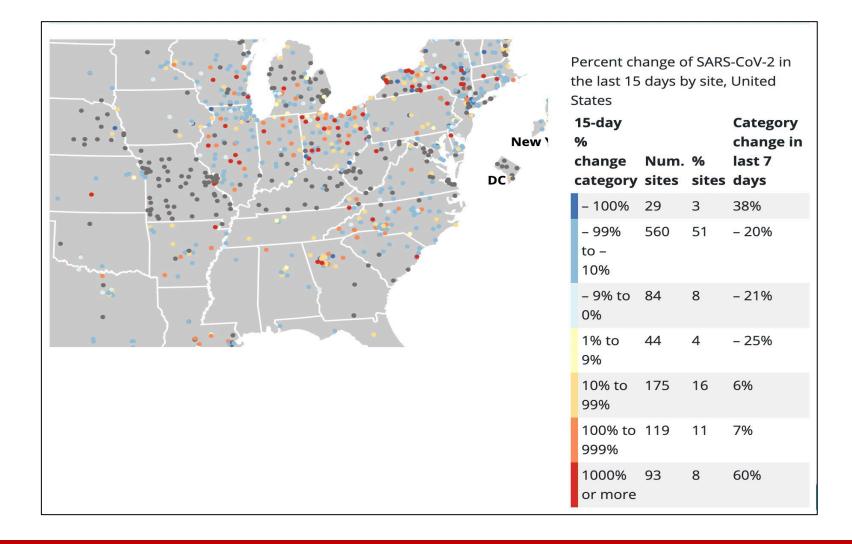


Objectives

- Provide an update on the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provide updates on the Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) resource boxes for nursing facilities
- Discuss Candida auris in Georgia and what you need to know for preparedness and response
- Share Alliant Health Solutions resources to support your infection prevention and control initiatives
- Address any facility-specific IPC questions or concerns

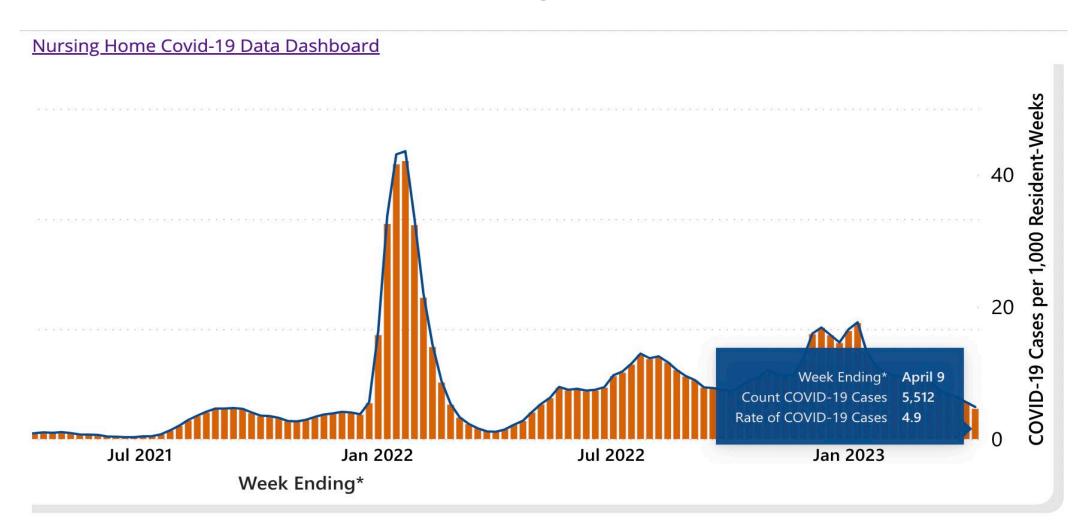


Wastewater Surveillance



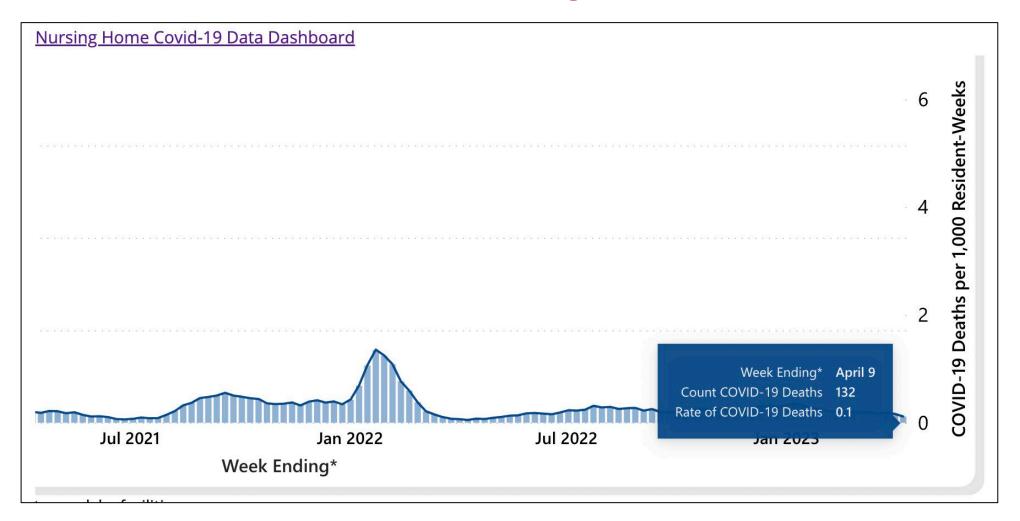


COVID-19 Cases in Nursing Home Residents



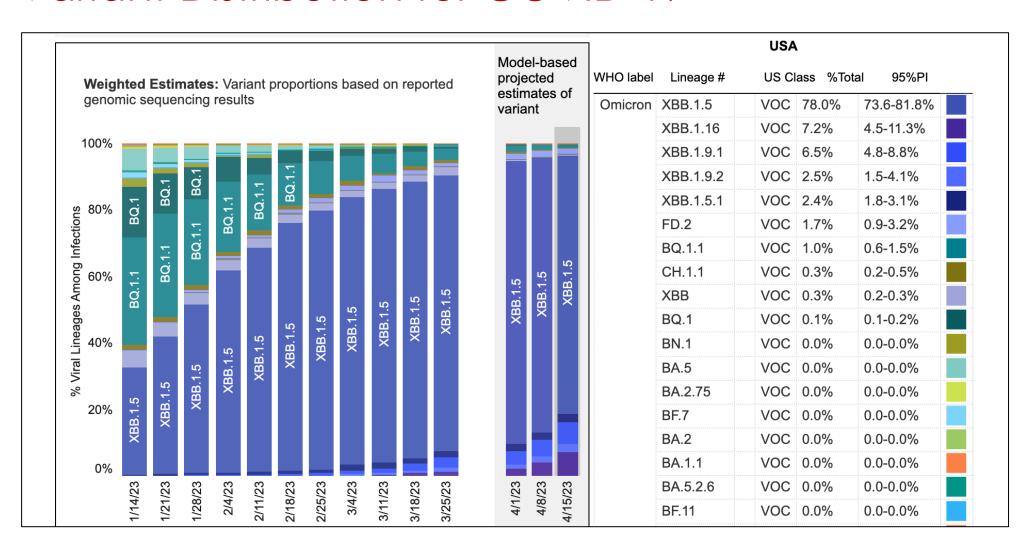


COVID-19 Deaths in Nursing Home Residents



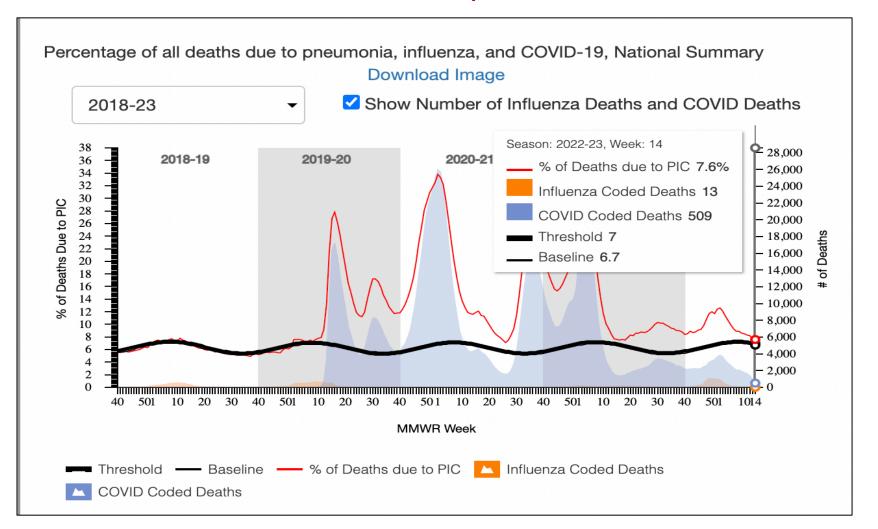


Variant Distribution for COVID-19





Where Are We in the Epidemic?





Resource Boxes Are on the Way!

- CDC Grant
- Partnership with UGA and Alliant
- Resource needs recognized via DPH HAI Team ICARs

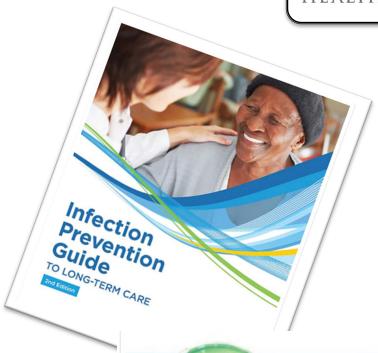
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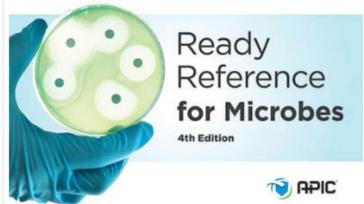




Infection Prevention Resource Boxes

- Resource boxes contain the following:
 - APIC Long-term Care Text
 - Quick Reference for Microbes
 - Glo Germ Kits
 - N-95 Fit-testing Kits
 - Resources and Tools









Candida auris in Georgia

What You Need To Know for Preparedness and Response

Alliant DPH Strike Team Office Hours Presentation for SNFs JoAnna Wagner, RN, CIC, DPH Nurse Epidemiologist/Lead Infection Preventionist April 21, 2023





Who We Are

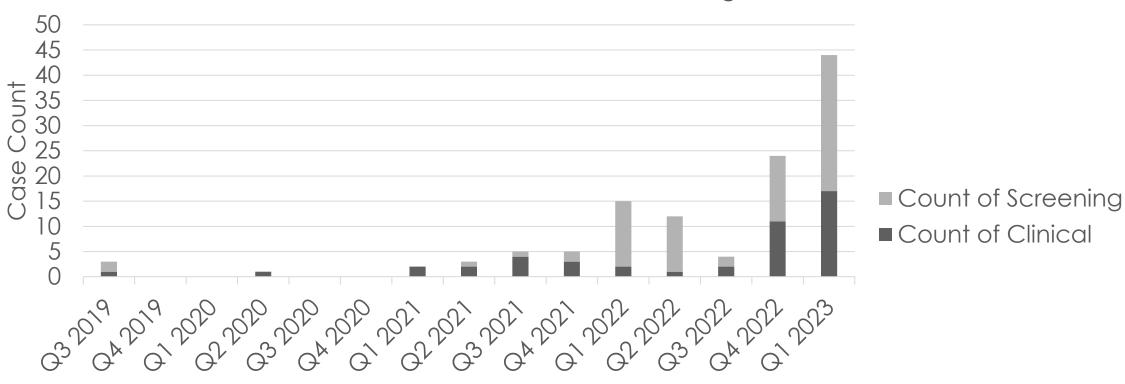
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Team of infection preventionists
- Offer free, non-regulatory infection prevention consultation
- Conduct consults and virtual walk-throughs using Zoom and onsite visits
- Provide resources; remain current with CDC recommendations for healthcare facilities
- Contact us at hai@dph.ga.gov





Increasing Cases in Georgia





Quarter Specimen Collected



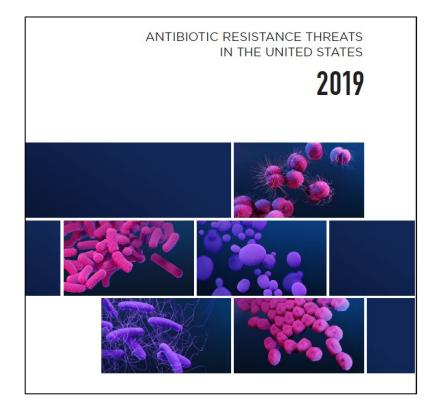


Candida auris: The Sneaky Spreader

- Candida auris Presence in Georgia: What You Need to Know for Preparedness and Response
- May 2022













Why Are We Concerned About Candida

auris?



Highly drug-resistant





Spreads in healthcare settings





Resistance: C. auris



85% Azoles



33% Polyenes



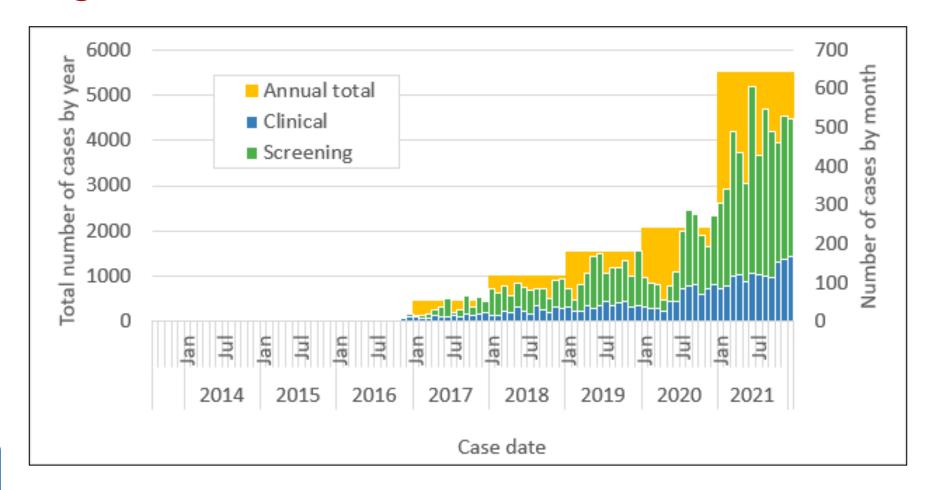
1% Echinocandins

- 32% multidrug-resistant
- multiple pan-resistant cases reported in the United States since 2019





Increasing Transmission of C. auris in the United States







Typically Affects the Sickest of the Sick

- Tracheostomies
- Ventilator-dependent
- Multiple health care encounters
- Colonized with other multidrug-resistant organisms
- Recently received antibiotics and antifungals
- Not a threat to the general public or healthy individuals







vSNFs and LTACHs Are Disproportionately Affected

C. auris prevalence



in vSNFs: 23-71%

in LTACHs: 23-36%

C. auris prevalence



in SNFs: 0-2%

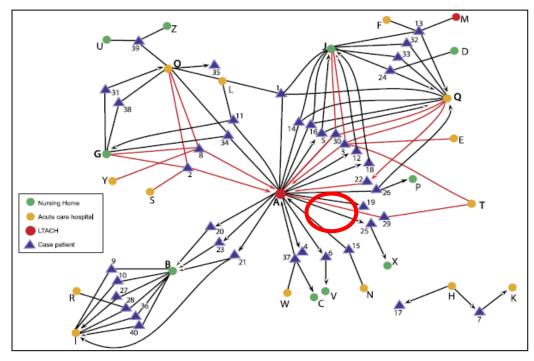
In ACHs: 0-14%





Gaps in Interfacility Communication Contribute

To Spread



LTACH = long-term acute care hospital

THE STANCE OF TH

Spread is often amplified in highacuity post-acute care facilities

- > Long lengths of stay
- High acuity patients with multiple healthcare encounters
- Less infection control infrastructure than short-stay acute care hospitals



Large Outbreak in a Hospital COVID-19 Unit in Florida

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Candida auris Outbreak in a COVID-19 Specialty Care Unit — Florida, July–August 2020

Christopher Prestel, MD^{1,2}; Erica Anderson, MPH²; Kaitlin Forsberg, MPH³; Meghan Lyman, MD³; Marie A. de Perio, MD^{4,5}; David Kuhar, MD¹; Kendra Edwards⁶; Maria Rivera, MPH²; Alicia Shugart, MA¹; Maroya Walters, PhD¹; Nychie Q. Dotson, PhD²

- Half of the patients screened for C. auris were positive for colonization
- 17% of colonized patients later had clinical cultures
- Healthcare personnel wearing multiple layers of gowns and gloves
 - Extended use of base layer for multiple patients
 - Many opportunities for contaminating the base layer
 - Might be motivated by fear of becoming infected



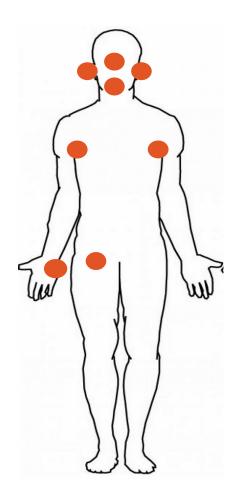


Patients Are Often Colonized Indefinitely

- Primarily on skin
 - Nares and other body sites also can become colonized
 - Recommend screening by swabbing the axilla/groin
- Persistent for many months
- No currently known decolonization strategies

- Can lead to:
 - Transmission to others
 - Invasive infection

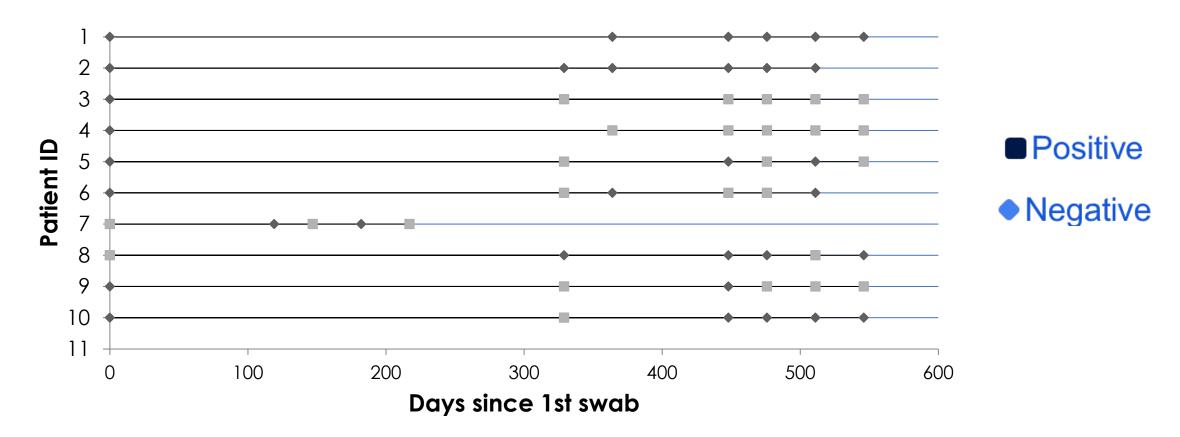








Clearance of Colonization is Rare







Can Cause Invasive Infections and High Mortality

5%-10% of colonized patients develop bloodstream infections



Mortality of invasive infections is

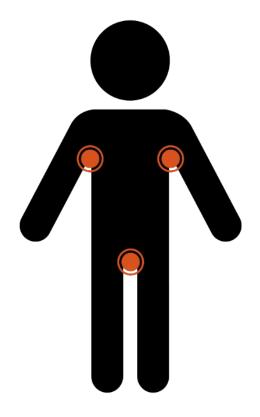
~40% within the first 30 days

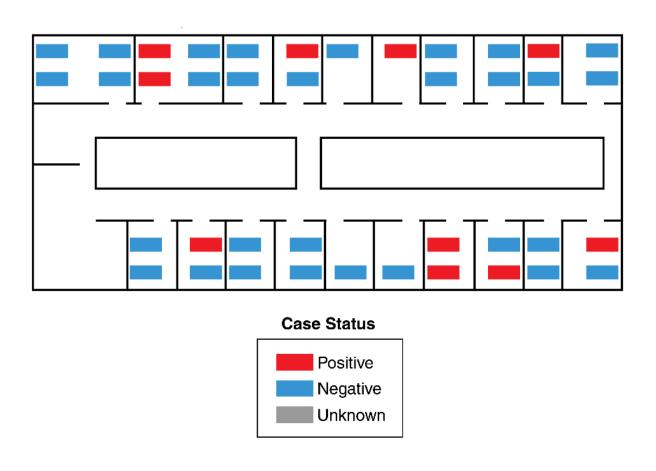




C. auris Colonization Doesn't Just Get Spread to Roommates—All Other Patients on the Unit Are at

Risk

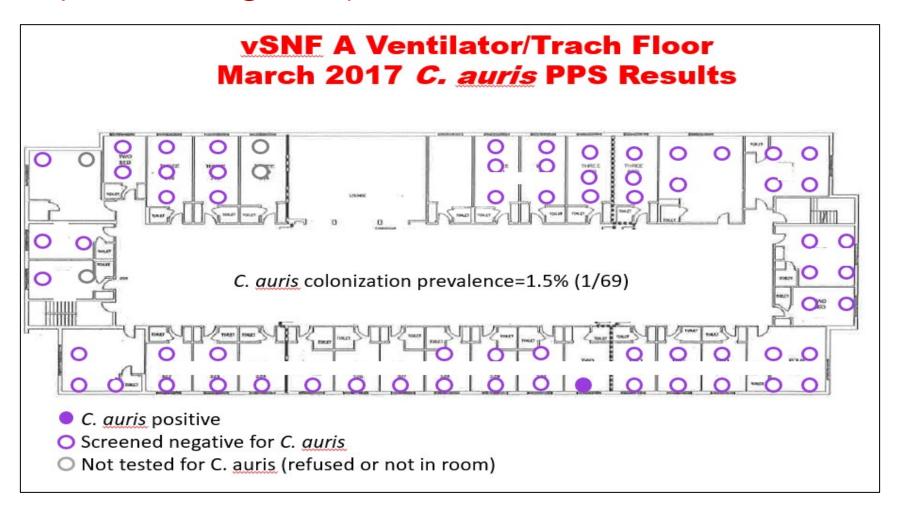








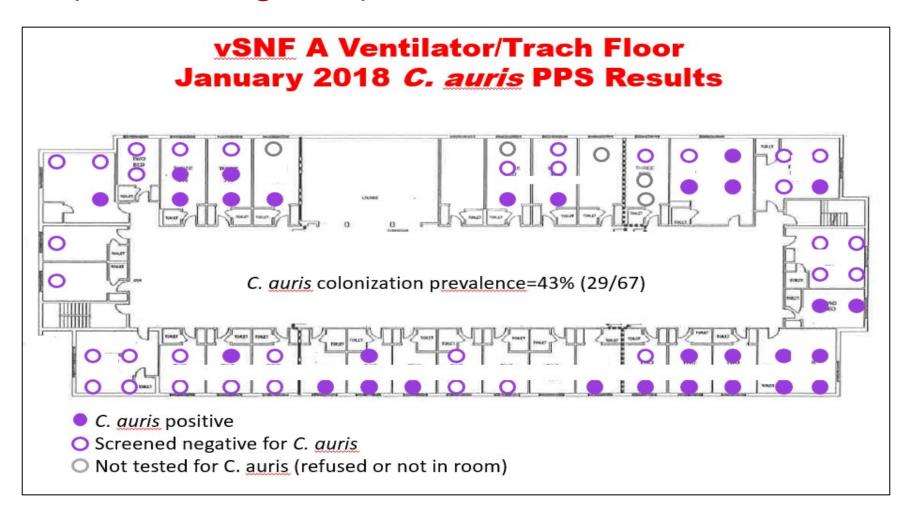
Slide courtesy of Chicago Department of Public Health







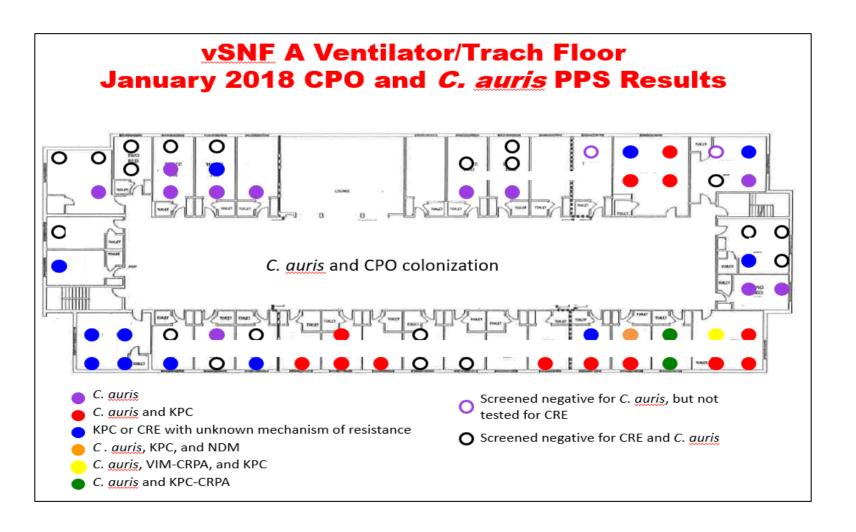
Slide courtesy of Chicago Department of Public Health







Slide courtesy of Chicago Department of Public Health

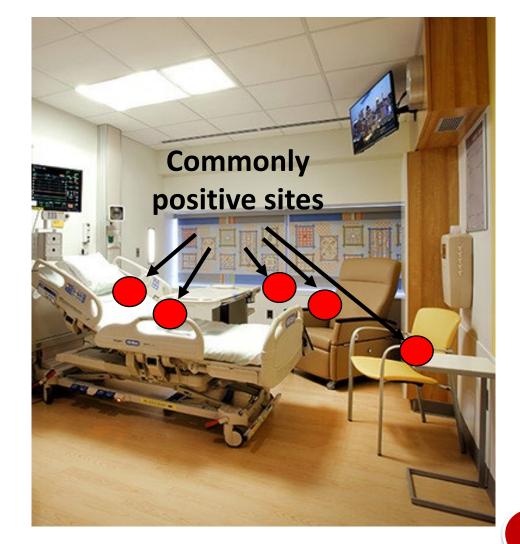






C. auris Persists in the Environment

- Can survive over a month
- Some common disinfectants (quaternary ammonia compounds) don't work







C auris is frequently transmitted via shared, mobile equipment that is not properly cleaned and disinfected between patients/residents.









Early Detection and Containment





Identification of C. auris Cases Has Been Challenging

- Misidentification by different diagnostic methods
- Yeast not identified to species level
 - Yeast from urine usually tossed out because not considered an infection
 - Only about 50% of clinical cases are from blood
- Missed detection of colonization cases without screening

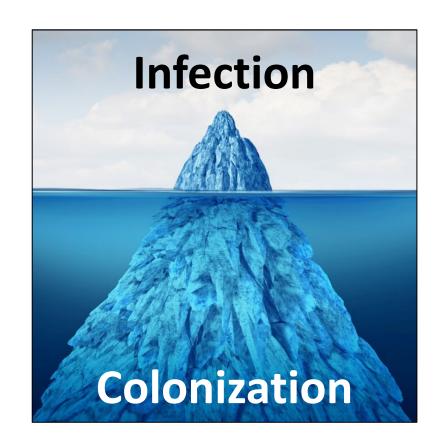






Early Detection is Key to Controlling Spread

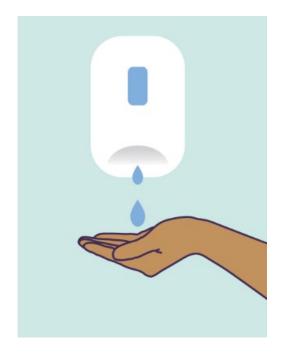
- Earlier detection allows for earlier infection control precautions
- Strategies for early identification
 - Species identification of all Candida specimens
 - Screening high-risk patients*
 - Periodic point prevalence surveys in highrisk facilities, even those without known cases



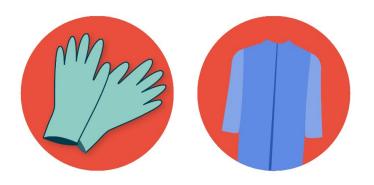




Prevention Strategies: Back to the Basics



Hand Hygiene



Transmission-based precautions & Personal Protective Equipment



Environmental
Cleaning &
Disinfection





Disinfectants During COVID-19

- Many common disinfectants effective against COVID-19 are not effective against C. auris
 - especially products with only quaternary ammonium compounds
- List P: new list of EPA-approved disinfectants for C. auris
 - All are also effective against COVID-19







Infection Prevention Education





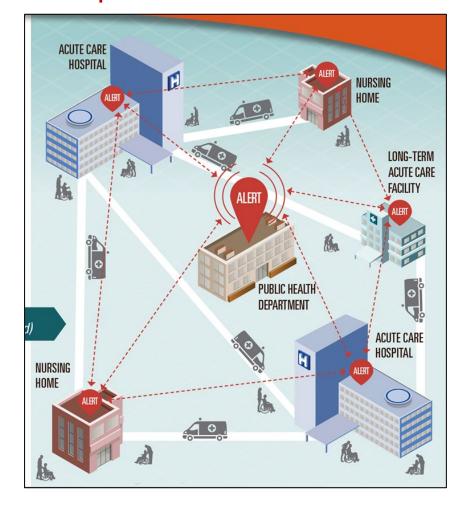


https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/healthcare/educational-materials.html#print



Coordinated Communication Between Facilities and Health Departments Is Essential To Prevent

Spread



Facilities work together to protect patients.





Containment Steps After a Case of C. auris Is Found

- Report to the health department
- Infection control and staff education

Screen patients with healthcare contact or high-risk patients

- Lab surveillance
- Consider other connected facilities







Containment Strategies <u>Before</u> the First C. auris Case

- Assess infection control and ensure good IPC practices
- Use a disinfectant effective against C. auris
- Strengthen communication (interfacility and intrafacility) about C. auris for transferred patients/residents
- Species identification of yeast from any body site, not just invasive specimens
- Consider targeted screening



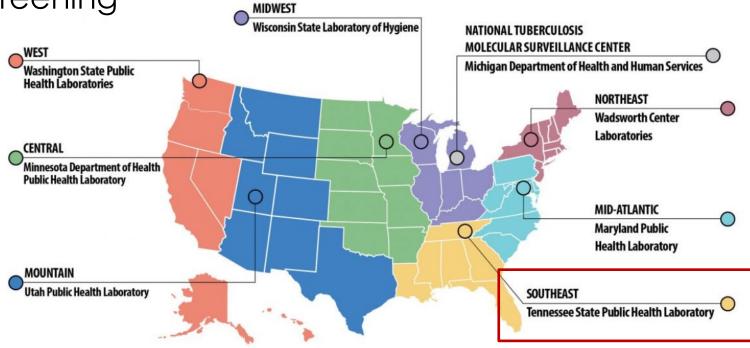




Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network

- Candida species identification
- Antifungal susceptibility testing

C. auris colonization screening

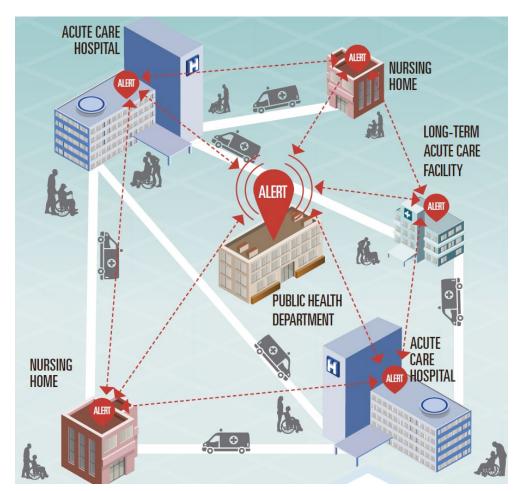






Response Involves all Healthcare

- Residents are shared across the healthcare continuum
- Communication is not always in place to ensure infection prevention measures are being used
- In health care settings, drug-resistant organisms can be spread from person to person and between people and the environment
- Environmental cleaning, use of PPE, and good hand hygiene are some infection control measures that prevent transmission







LTCF and C. auris





Be Proactive

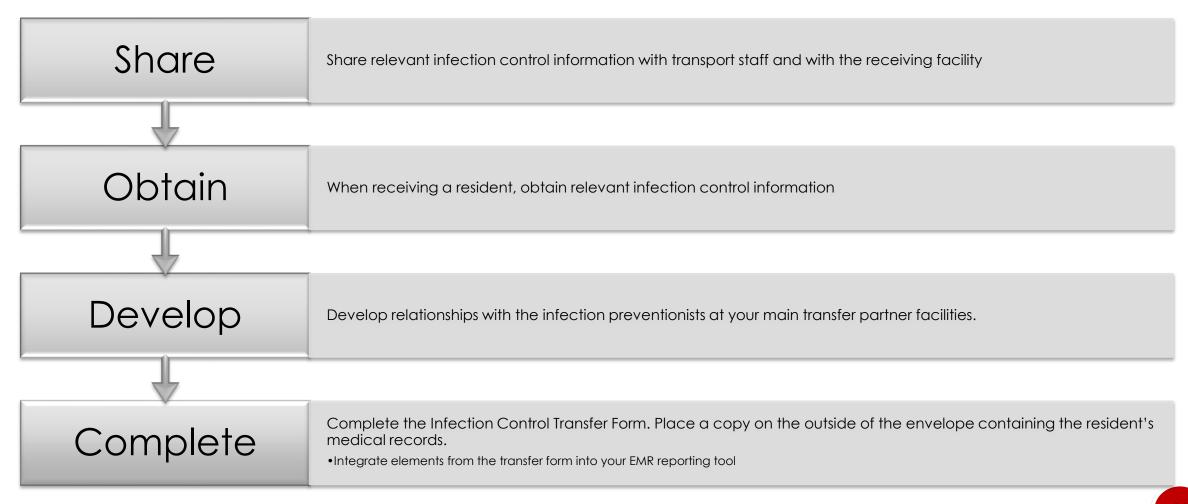
- Core Infection Prevention practices
 - Are current practices appropriate and consistent?
 - Are you assessing compliance?
- Check current disinfectant products

- Can you accept a C. auris-positive person?
 - Current CDC recommendations
 - Who are your "healthiest" residents?





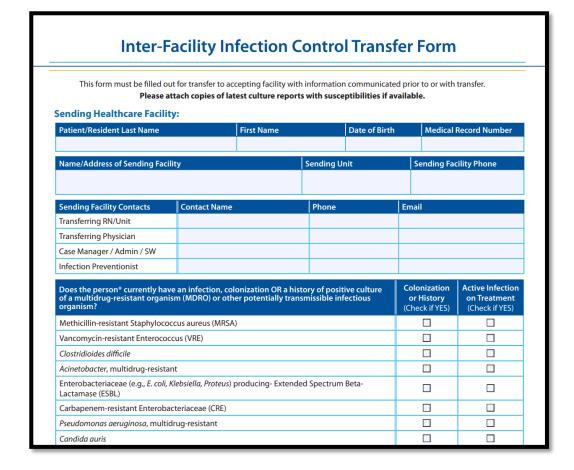
Communication





Communication Tools

- Know your transfer partners in advance. Connect with main transfer partner Infection Preventionists.
- Engage in transfer communication when sending and receiving patients/residents.
- Different methods
 - Paper
 - Electronic medical record
 - Customize
- CDC Infection Control Transfer Form:
- https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/toolkits/InfectionContr olTransferFormExample1.pdf
- Alliant Health Solutions:
- https://www.alliantquality.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02/AQ_InterFacility-Transfer-Form 12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1NH-21-491_508.pdf







Resources

- General:
 - https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candidaauris/candida-auris-qanda.html
- C. auris IPC guidance:
 - https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/cauris-infection-control.html
- C. auris Fact Sheets:
 - https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candidaauris/fact-sheets/index.html
- C. auris Tracking Information:
 - https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candidaauris/tracking-c-auris.html







Thank you!

https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris

Candidaauris@cdc.gov







Thank you! Consult with the DPH Team! We are here to help!

State Region/Districts	Contact Information	
North (Rome, Dalton, Gainesville, Athens) Districts 1-1, 1-2, 2, 10	Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov (404-967-0582)	2
Atlanta Metro (Cobb-Douglas, Fulton, Clayton, Lawrenceville, DeKalb, LaGrange) Districts 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 4	<u>Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov</u> (256-293-9994) <u>Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov</u> (678-357-4797)	_
Central (Dublin, Macon, Augusta, & Columbus) Districts 5-1, 5-2, 6, 7	Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov (404-967-0589) Karen.Williams13@dph.ga.gov (404-596-1732)	_
Southwest (Albany, Valdosta) Districts 8-1, 8-2	Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov (404-596-1940))
Southeast (Savannah, Waycross) Districts 9-1, 9-2	Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov (804-514-8756)	2
Backup/Nights/Weekends	Joanna.Wagner@dph.ga.gov (404-430-6316)	2



Thank you! Questions?

JoAnna M. Wagner, RN, BSN, BHSA, CIC Nurse Epidemiologist/Lead Infection Preventionist Georgia Department of Public Health Acute Disease and Epidemiology Section

2 Peach Tree Street NW Atlanta, GA 30303 Mobile: (404) 430-6316

<u>joanna.wagner@dph.ga.gov</u>



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Questions?





Alliant Health Solutions Resources





https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/georgia-department-of-public-health/

https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/infection-control/



Thank You for Your Time! Contact the AHS Patient Safety Team



Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC Patient Safety Manager Amy.Ward@AlliantHealth.org 678.527.3653



Paula St. Hill, MPH, A-IPC Technical Advisor, Infection Prevention Paula.StHill@AlliantHealth.org 678.527.3619



Donald Chitanda, MPH, CIC Technical Advisor, Infection Prevention <u>Donald.Chitanda@AlliantHealth.org</u> 678.527.3651



Erica Umeakunne, MSN, MPH, APRN, CIC Infection Prevention Specialist Erica.Umeakunne@AlliantHealth.org



Save the Date

SNF and Medical Directors Office Hours:

May 19, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

ALF and PCH

April 28, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

May 26, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET



Thanks Again...

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia





Making Health Care Better







