





MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Date: October 8, 2018

To: Medical Laboratory Directors

From: Richard B. Brooks, MD, MPH 
Medical Officer, CDC | DHQP | Prevention and Response Branch
MDH Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau

Robert A. Myers Ph.D. 
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Re: *Candida auris* Reporting/Isolate Submission Requirement and Statewide non-*Candida albicans* Surveillance Program

Candida auris (*C. auris*) is a newly emerging multidrug-resistant yeast that can cause invasive infections and spread easily in healthcare settings, causing large outbreaks. As of August 31, 2018, [397 confirmed and 30 probable cases](https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/tracking-c-auris.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/tracking-c-auris.html>) had been identified in the United States. *C. auris* can be difficult to identify and is often misidentified as other yeasts when using common biochemical methods.

Given the danger this yeast represents to the public health, *C. auris* colonization and infection are now reportable in Maryland in accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.01.03. In an effort to identify and track antifungal resistance in important emerging species such as *C. auris*, the [Maryland Department of Health \(MDH\) Mid-Atlantic Regional Laboratory](https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/ARLNhome.aspx) (part of the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network or ARLN, <https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/ARLNhome.aspx>), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Mycotic Diseases Branch Microbiology laboratories, is requiring clinical laboratories in Maryland to submit 1) all confirmed or suspected *C. auris* isolates, 2) yeast isolates when unable to identify species after identification was attempted, and 3) *Candida* species isolates **other than** *C. albicans*, to the Maryland Mid-Atlantic Regional ARLN Laboratory for species identification/confirmation using an FDA-cleared MALDI-TOF method. Selected isolates, especially *C. auris*, *C. haemulonii*, and *C. glabrata* will be tested for drug resistance against a panel of anti-mycotic agents using the microbroth dilution and E-test methods. All testing is performed in accordance with CLIA regulations; however, please be aware that this testing is being conducted primarily for ARLN surveillance purposes rather than for clinical use.

Candida species isolates should be submitted on a Sabouraud Dextrose slant accompanied by a completed “[Infectious Agents: Culture and Detection](https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/home.aspx)” fillable form #4676, available on MDH’s [website](https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/home.aspx) (<https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/home.aspx>). Indicate “**ARLN Candida speciation**” in the “Other Tests for Infectious Agents” section of the form, and indicate the specimen source (see attachment). Test results will be faxed back to the submitter’s HIPAA compliant (secure) fax machine. For questions regarding the submission of isolates, please contact the Maryland Mid-Atlantic Regional ARLN Laboratory at mdphl.arln@maryland.gov or by phone at 443-681-3825. Additional information about *C. auris* can be found on CDC’s *C. auris* [website](https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/index.html>).

cc: Fran Phillips RN, MHA
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