



March 27, 2023

**To:** Infection Control Practitioners at Acute-Care Hospitals in San Mateo County

**Re:** *Candida auris*

Colleagues:

As you know, *C. auris* has made a notable comeback in parts of California. It is now endemic in several counties in Southern California and has been identified in Bay Area counties as well. To date, we have not identified any isolates in San Mateo County; obviously, we would like to keep it that way!

In February 2023, CDPH sent a Health Advisory entitled "[Emergence of Candida auris in Healthcare Facilities in Northern California](#)." All of you are likely in receipt of that Advisory; we are calling it to your attention to emphasize its importance and to request that you design a protocol for your hospital specifically for control of *C. auris*.

The Advisory is extensive and covers infection control interventions in 8 specific areas. Please review the Advisory and include all 8 areas when developing your protocol.

Emphasis should be placed on:

- (1) Active Surveillance by screening patients transferring from any LTACH or vSNF ventilator unit regardless of geographic location; if from Nevada, add ACH transfers, and any facility with known *C. auris* transmission.
- (2) Place any screened patient on Contact Precautions while awaiting screening results.
- (3) In high acuity units, use EPA disinfectant from [List P](#).
- (4) Utilize ICP as listed and note that there is no "clearance" for *C. auris*.
- (5) Ask your Laboratory to identify all *Candida* isolates from sterile sites to species level; ask for species level identification regardless of site for patients at high risk for *C. auris*.
- (6) Communicate with any other involved HCFs.
- (7) Attention to Antimicrobial Stewardship
- (8) Report any cases of *C. auris* to San Mateo County Health and send isolates to the County Public Health Laboratory.





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Thank you for your attention to this important situation involving *C. auris*. See the “[Additional Resources](#)” section in the Advisory for additional information and resources. Please drop us an e-mail to let us know when you have completed your hospital protocol.

If you have questions, the Communicable Disease Control Program is available Monday-Friday 8:00AM-5:00PM by phone at 650-573-2346. Please remember that this number is intended for use by Acute-Care Hospitals and should not be disseminated further. You may also send an email to [SMCCDControl@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCCDControl@smcgov.org) for non-urgent consults.

Thank you,

                   */Signed/*

Dated: March 27, 2023

Scott Morrow, MD, MPH, MBA  
San Mateo County Health