

Infection Prevention News You Can Use

Emerging Pathogens

Early and rapid identification of potential pathogens is crucial in preventing spread and saving lives. The implementation of control measures, such as screening and isolation, is essential for interrupting disease transmission. Below are three emerging pathogens for healthcare organizations to track.

Candida auris

Candida auris (*C. auris*) is a yeast that causes severe illness and spreads easily through contact transmission. Patients can be colonized with *C. auris* and not demonstrate any symptoms of infection. Colonized patients spread *C. auris* in the same manner as those that have symptoms of infection.

Prevention Strategies

- **Screening:** Screening identifies colonized patients so that they can be placed in isolation under Contact Precautions.
- **Disinfection:** Utilizing appropriate disinfectants and following the appropriate contact time will prevent the spread of *C. auris*. See [EPA's List P](#) of approved disinfection products for *C. auris*.

Measles

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that spreads quickly through the air when a person coughs, sneezes, or by direct contact with infected nose or throat secretions. A fever can begin anywhere from seven (7) to eighteen (18) days after exposure.

Prevention Strategies

- **Vaccination:** The best way to prevent measles is the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine. One dose is 93% effective, and two doses are 97% effective.
- **Isolation:** Place patients with known or suspected measles in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR). If an AIIR is not available, transfer the patient as soon as possible to where an AIIR is available. While waiting for transfer, mask the patient and place them in a private room with the door closed.

Invasive Group A Streptococcus

Group A *Streptococcus* can cause many various types of infections and inflammatory disease, including sore throat, cellulitis, or necrotizing fasciitis. Group A strep is very contagious and can be spread through respiratory droplets or direct contact. Invasive Group A strep occurs when the bacteria infect other parts of the body, such as the blood, deep muscle tissue, or the organ space. These serious infections can lead to long-term complications and even be deadly.

Prevention Strategies:

- **Exposure Limitation:** Includes cleaning and covering wounds, hand hygiene, and placing patients under Contact Precautions.
- **Medication:** Antibiotics are used to treat the infection and prevent serious complications. Generally, beta-lactam antibiotics such as penicillins and cephalosporins are utilized for treatment.

Upcoming Events

AHRQ Program for CAUTI Prevention

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is recruiting adult intensive care units (ICUs) and non-ICUs to participate in a free, nine-month program aimed at reducing catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) rates in acute care hospitals. [Click here](#) for more information about the program and to sign up for an upcoming informational webinars.

Champions of Change: Celebrating Stewardship Success

In recognition of U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week (USAAW), observed from November 18 – 24, IHA will partner with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to celebrate antimicrobial achievements across Illinois.

Join us on **Tuesday, November 18 at 12:00pm** for a one-hour webinar that will provide updates around IDPH's Antimicrobial Stewardship Initiatives, recognize the 2025 Acute Care Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll Awardees, and highlight recipients of the Collaboration Distinction Awards. [Click here to register now!](#)

Resources

- 1) CDC *Candida auris*: <https://www.cdc.gov/candida-auris/index.html>
- 2) CDC Group A Strep Infection: <https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/about/index.html>
- 3) CDC Recommendations for Measles in Healthcare Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/measles/index.html>
- 4) IDPH Measles: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/measles.html>

MAPS Patient Safety Organization

IHA's Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) is leading efforts to prevent medical error through resource sharing, education and data collection/analysis. As a certified Patient Safety Organization (PSO) since 2010, MAPS provides full legal privileges, confidentiality and protections for reported patient events.

[Click here](#) to learn more about MAPS benefits and how to become a member today.