

# CDC: Superbug fungus has sickened 600 Americans

April 12 2019

---



(HealthDay)—The United States has had more than 600 cases of

infection with a type of fungus called a "serious global health threat" by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The first U.S. cases of *Candida auris* [infection](#) appeared shortly after the CDC became aware of it globally in 2016, *ABC News* reported. Since then, there have been 617 confirmed cases of *C. auris*, with most reported in New York City, New Jersey, and Chicago, according to the latest CDC data. The agency also said that the [fungus](#) has been detected in more than 20 other countries.

*C. auris* can cause infections in a number of areas of the body, ranging from wounds to the ears to the bloodstream. People most likely to be infected are long-term hospital patients, those with a central venous catheter or other lines or tubes entering the body, and those who have previously taken antibiotics or antifungal medications, according to the CDC.

*C. auris* spreads more easily between people than other species of *Candida*, and it can survive on surfaces after routine cleaning, so places such as hospitals and nursing homes are ideal breeding grounds. The CDC also said that *C. auris* is often resistant to one or more antifungal medications, making infection with the fungus difficult to treat.

**More information:** [ABC News Article](#)  
[More Information: CDC](#)

Copyright © 2019 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: CDC: Superbug fungus has sickened 600 Americans (2019, April 12) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-04-cdc-superbug-fungus-sickened-americans.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.