

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

March 20, 2017

Re: *Candida auris* (*C. auris*)

*Candida auris* (*C. auris*) is a pathogenic yeast known to cause severe illness in hospitalized patients.<sup>1</sup> First identified in Japan in 2009 the earliest known strains of the pathogen can be traced to 1996 in South Korea and has since been reported in dozens of countries including Canada, Colombia, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, South Africa, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Venezuela, and the United States.<sup>1</sup> Due to the need for specialized testing to identify *C. auris* infections have likely occurred in other countries but are unidentified or unreported.<sup>1</sup> The method by which *C. auris* spread is still being studied but early evidence suggests that the pathogen may spread in the healthcare setting through contaminated environmental surfaces or person to person contact.<sup>1</sup>

As with any infectious disease it is important to follow general prevention steps including:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact such as kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Avoid contact with bodily fluids of any who is, or may be sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or shirt sleeve, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) original recommendation to use a registered disinfectant with a fungal claim has been updated to recommend the use of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered hospital-grade disinfectant effective against *Clostridium difficile* spores to disinfect surfaces which may be contaminated with *C. auris*.<sup>2</sup>

Based on these recommendations Charlotte Products can recommend the following products for disinfection of *Candida auris*:

- PCS 5000 (Canada)
- Ecogent 7000 Disinfectant Cleaner (USA)

Please be assured that we will continue to monitor this situation and update our recommendations as necessary.

### References:

1. **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/candida-auris-qanda.html>
2. **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/recommendations.html>