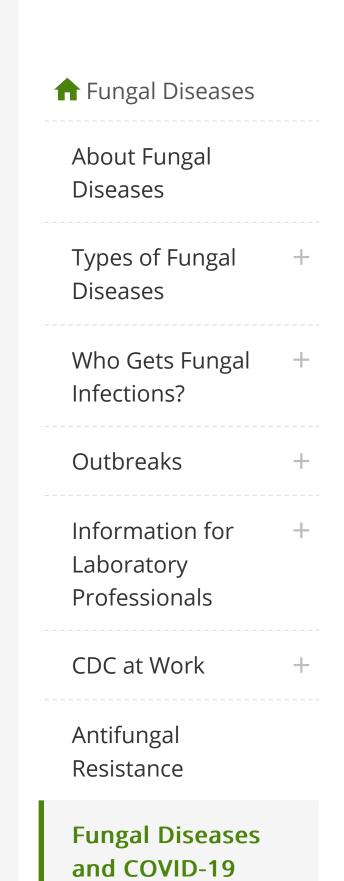
Fungal Diseases

CDC > Fungal Diseases









Resources

Awareness Week

Think Fungus:

Fungal Disease

Related Links

Fungal_Meningitis

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Fungal Diseases and COVID-19

Overview

Symptoms of some fungal diseases can be similar to those of COVID-19, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Laboratory testing is necessary to determine if a person has a fungal infection or

COVID-19. Some patients can have COVID-19 and a fungal infection at the same time. People with severe COVID-19, such as those in an

bacterial and fungal infections. The most common fungal infections in patients with COVID-19 include aspergillosis or invasive candidiasis. 1-6 These fungal and can be associated with severe illness and

prevent severe illness and death from these infections.

intensive care unit (ICU), are particularly vulnerable to co-infections are reported with increasing frequency death.^{1,3,4,7,8} Awareness of the possibility of fungal co-

On This Page Overview

COVID-19-associated pulmonary aspergillosis

Increased spread of Candida auris during COVID-19 pandemic

Invasive candidiasis in patients with COVID-19

Fungal pneumonias can

resemble COVID-19

infection is essential to reduce delays in diagnosis and treatment in order to help

Scientists are still learning about aspergillosis (infections caused by the fungus

COVID-19-associated pulmonary aspergillosis

Aspergillus) in people with severe COVID-19. In the past, scientists thought aspergillosis occurred almost entirely in people with severely weakened immune systems. However, aspergillosis has been <u>increasingly reported</u> in patients without weakened immune systems but who have severe respiratory infections caused by viruses, including influenza. Several recent reports describe COVID-19-associated pulmonary aspergillosis (CAPA).^{1,3,6,9,10–13}

• usually occurs in patients with severe COVID-19 (e.g., patients on ventilators in

Available information indicates that CAPA:

- ICUs)^{1,6,11–13}
- can be difficult to diagnose because patients often have non-specific symptoms and testing typically requires a specimen from deep in the lungs¹¹

Clinicians should consider the possibility of aspergillosis in patients with severe

• can cause severe illness and death^{8,9,11–13}

COVID-19 who have worsening respiratory function or sepsis, even if they do not have classical risk_factors for aspergillosis. 15 Testing for CAPA usually involves obtaining specimens from patients' lower respiratory tract, which are tested for Aspergillus galactomannan antigen and fungal culture. Increased spread of *Candida auris* during COVID-

19 pandemic <u>Candida auris</u> is an emerging fungus that can cause outbreaks of severe infections in

healthcare facilities. In the United States, it has most commonly spread in long-term care facilities caring for people with severe medical conditions. However, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, outbreaks of *C. auris* have been reported in COVID-19 units of acute care hospitals. These outbreaks may be related to changes in routine infection control practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, including limited availability of gloves and gowns, or reuse of these items, and changes in cleaning and disinfection practices. New *C. auris* cases without links to known cases or healthcare abroad have been identified recently in multiple states, suggesting an increase in undetected transmission. Screening for *C. auris* colonization, an important part of containment efforts, has been more limited as resources of healthcare facilities and health departments have been diverted to respond to COVID-19.

Patients hospitalized for COVID-19 are at risk for healthcare-associated infections

Invasive candidiasis in patients with COVID-19

(HAIs), including candidemia, or bloodstream infections caused by *Candida*.^{7,16–18} Fungal infections resistant to antifungal treatment have also been described in patients with severe COVID-19.^{18,19} Early diagnosis and monitoring for *Candida* infections and antifungal resistant infections (e.g., *C. auris,* azole-resistant Aspergillus) are key to reducing death from COVID-19 in patients with severe COVID-19 fungal co-infections. Fungal pneumonias can resemble COVID-19

Other fungal diseases, such as Valley fever (coccidioidomycosis), histoplasmosis, and blastomycosis, can cause fever, cough, and shortness of breath, similar to COVID-19

and bacterial pneumonias.²⁰ These fungi live in soil. People become infected by breathing in fungi present in the air. Clinicians should consider fungal pneumonias as a possible cause of respiratory illness, particularly if COVID-19 testing is negative. It is important to note that these fungal diseases can occur at the same time as COVID-19.^{21,22} Learn more about Valley fever, histoplasmosis, and blastomycosis.

Related Links

CDC: COVID-19 **CDC:** Aspergillosis

- CDC: Candida auris
- CDC: Histoplasmosis CDC: Blastomycosis
- CDC: Coccidioidomycosis

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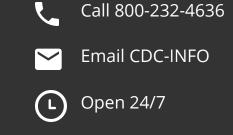
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Page last reviewed: December 18, 2020