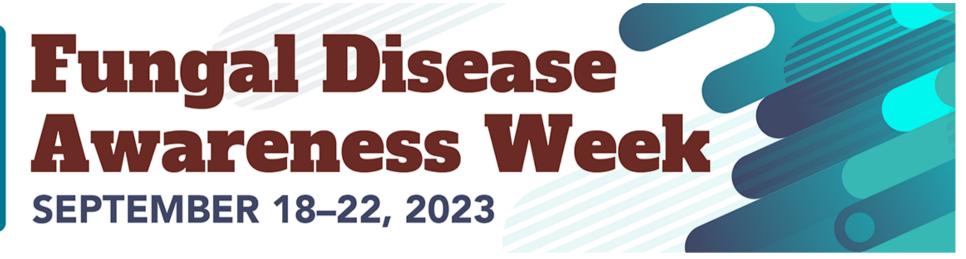




Fungal Diseases



The Growing Need to Think Fungus

September 18–22, 2023, is Fungal Disease Awareness Week (FDAW). Each year, CDC and partners dedicate FDAW to activities and outreach that encourage everyone to *Think Fungus*. Several events in 2023 that led up to FDAW demonstrated the growing challenges, complexities, and devastating impact of fungal diseases. These included:

Sign up for the Fungal Diseases Newsletter for updates, shareable resources, and information on how to join in activities all week. Additional outreach resources on fungal diseases can always be found on our Educational Materials page.

- An unprecedented outbreak of the fungal infection blastomycosis among employees in a papermill in Michigan.
- Newly published data showing sharp annual increases in *Candida auris (C. auris)* infections.
- A multinational outbreak of fungal meningitis linked to procedures performed under epidural anesthesia in Matamoros, Mexico.

However, news headlines are not necessary to *Think Fungus*. Many people are affected by fungal diseases at different points in their lives, whether dealing with a somewhat common ringworm infection or coping with losing a loved one from a healthcare-associated fungal infection. In some parts of the United States and the world, it is difficult to avoid breathing in fungal spores that cause infections like histoplasmosis, blastomycosis, or Valley fever.

Fungal diseases are increasing worldwide, and signs suggest this trend will continue. Studies show that global temperature increases may allow environmental infectious fungi to grow in new areas that were previously too cold. Changes in the climate may also cause fungi to evolve, threatening the rise of new fungal infections. Some researchers believe climate change caused the emergence of the deadly fungus *C. auris*.

Despite all of this, healthcare providers often miss fungal diseases, at least initially. Misdiagnoses or delayed diagnoses can cost lives. Additionally, fungi that cause infections in people are more often becoming resistant to the limited antifungal medications available. This means it's more common that fungal diseases cannot be treated with medications designed to stop infections.

Help Fight Future Fungal Disease Threats

Each day of FDAW features a different fungal disease theme and ways people can help reduce the impact of fungal diseases. Daily webinars and interactive events hosted by CDC and partners give everyone a front row seat to hear from fungal disease experts.

Monday,	Tuesday,	Wednesday,	Thursday,	Friday,
September 18	September 19	September 20	September 21	September 22

Monday, September 18	Tuesday, September 19	Wednesday, September 20	Thursday, September 21	Friday, September 22
When to <i>Think Fungus</i>	Fight Fungi, Protect Patients	The Path of Yeast Resistance	Fungus and the Environment: There's	The Future of Fungal Infections
Fungal diseases overview: risk	Healthcare-associated fungal infections:	Antimicrobial resistance and antifungal	Fungus Among Us Fungal community-	Impact of climate change on fungal
factors, and when	protective actions for	stewardship: what	acquired pneumonia:	diseases: the main
to consider testing for and treating	healthcare providers, infection prevention	healthcare providers and patients can do, how	infections caused by fungal spores naturally	environmental changes associated with climate
fungal infections.	and control	antifungal and agricultural	found in the soil and air	change that could
	professionals, and healthcare facility	fungicide use can lead to resistance, and how	in certain parts of the United States, their	increase the burden and severity of fungal
	management.	antibiotic use increases	expansion to new areas,	diseases worldwide.
		the risk for fungal infections.	and new tools to guide healthcare providers.	

Social Media Toolkit

Getting more people to *Think Fungus* may be the first step to help change the direction of fungal diseases. CDC is sharing a social media toolkit so anyone can download and share graphics, animations, and key action messages from their social media accounts.

Social media content for FDAW 2023 is coming soon. Continue to check this page.

Last Reviewed: August 2, 2023