



Fungal Diseases

Fungal Disease Awareness Week

SEPTEMBER 18–22, 2023

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

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