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Dear Members,

Earlier this month, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued an [update](#) regarding *Candida auris* and its presence in Massachusetts. According to the CDC, *Candida Auris* is a potentially deadly fungal infection. Not only are cases on the rise, but the CDC has warned of the additional concern that the organism has become increasingly drug resistant.

This excerpt, taken from the CDC website, explains the situation that has many people concerned. “*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has **issued a warning** about a drug-resistant strain of fungus, *Candida auris* (*C. auris*), spreading in health care facilities in the United States. The CDC identified *C. auris* as an urgent threat because it is often resistant to treatment with antifungal drugs and can cause severe infections with high death rates. Although still rare in the U.S., more than 1 in 3 patients with an invasive ***C. auris* infection** die from the disease. In general, the fungus is not a threat to healthy people. People who are very sick, or who have long or frequent stays in health care facilities or a weakened immune system are at increased risk for acquiring *C. auris*. People with invasive medical devices, such as catheters, breathing tubes and feeding tubes, are also more vulnerable.*”

The Department of Public Health update includes [information](#) about infection control and mitigation relating to this organism, as well as a list of EPA-registered disinfectants that are known to be effective against the organism. We are providing this information to you as the portion of the guidance addressing recommended cleaning products to prevent the spread of this organism may be helpful in the assisted living setting.

Specifically, the guidance provided the following information:

“The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has created [List P, a list of EPA-registered disinfectants](#) effective against *C. auris*, for cleaning and disinfecting the patient care environment and reusable equipment.” This list may be used for ALRs to review their current cleaning products in order to assure what they are using is effective against the spread of *C. auris*.