



Pennsylvania
Department of Health

PA Project Firstline Newsletter

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Request a PA PFL Training:

PA PFL provides free in-person or virtual training on infection prevention and control (IPC) topics for all types of healthcare facilities and frontline healthcare personnel.

FEATURED: Escape Room Training



The escape room is a live, interactive training where teams of 4-5 people work together for 30 minutes to navigate Clutterbug's clever traps and help unite with Captain Germ-B-Gone to proclaim victory. Four stations cover hand hygiene, source control, cleaning & disinfection, and personal protective equipment to reinforce specific IPC objectives.

Check out our list of training topics and request training for your facility:

[Access form here](#)

OR

Scan the QR code below.



Air Quality and Ventilation in Health Care



As winter brings more time indoors, maintaining good air quality and ventilation in health care settings is essential to reduce the spread of airborne germs. Airborne germs can spread more easily between people indoors due to an increased concentration of germ particles. Effective ventilation helps clear contaminants by bringing fresh air into patient care areas and achieving recommended air changes per hour (ACH) to limit germ transmission among patients and staff.

Additionally, health care facilities should ensure that ventilation systems are unobstructed and consult with facility maintenance teams before adjusting ventilation, as these systems are often interconnected across rooms. **Learn more** by visiting the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)'s guideline on air quality and environmental control in health care facilities](#).

Additional Resources:

[Ventilation and Infection Control in Healthcare \(Video\)](#)

[What is Ventilation? \(Video\)](#)

[Why Does Ventilation Matter? \(Video\)](#)

[Videos on Ventilation by American Society for Health Care Engineering \(ASHE\)](#)

[Ventilation Guidance by ASHE: Quick Guides for health care workers, staff, and facility managers](#)

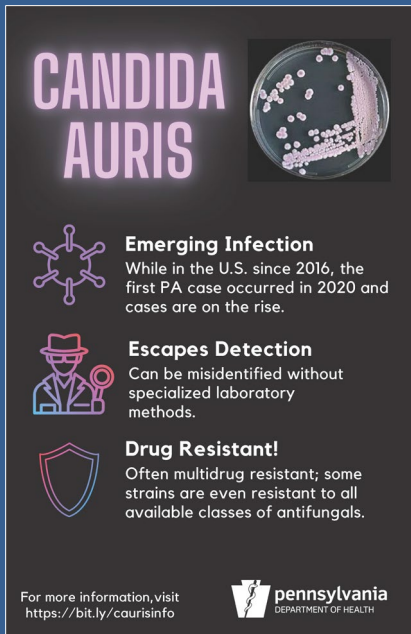
[Ventilation e-Learning Courses for Clinicians and Facilities Managers and Staff](#)

[American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers \(ASHRAE\) resources for healthcare facilities](#)

[Ventilation in Health Care Settings Factsheet \(English\)](#)

[Ventilation in Health Care Settings Factsheet \(Spanish\)](#)

C. auris: New Educational Resources




CANDIDA AURIS

Emerging Infection
While in the U.S. since 2016, the first PA case occurred in 2020 and cases are on the rise.

Escapes Detection
Can be misidentified without specialized laboratory methods.

Drug Resistant!
Often multidrug resistant; some strains are even resistant to all available classes of antifungals.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/caurisinfo>

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

C. auris is an emerging fungal threat that poses serious challenges in health care settings. To help health care and public health professionals combat this germ, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has developed a series of educational videos. These resources cover critical topics, including identification, prevention, and management of *C. auris* infections.

Explore the videos and stay equipped to prevent the spread of this global health threat: [Access C. auris Videos](#).

Contact Us

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TEXT "JOIN" TO: IPC4U
TO RECEIVE TEXT UPDATES FROM PA PROJECT FIRSTLINE

Sharps Safety: Minimizing Risks and Ensuring Compliance



NOW YOU SEE IT. **NOW YOU DON'T.**

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS- USE SHARPS WITH SAFETY FEATURES

BE PREPARED. Anticipate injury risks and prepare the patient and work area with permission in mind. Use a sharp device with safety features whenever it is available.

BE AWARE. Learn how to use the safety features on sharp devices.

DISPOSE WITH CARE. Engage safety features immediately after use and dispose in sharps safety containers.

According to the CDC, health care workers experience about 385,000 sharps injuries annually in hospitals, risking exposure to infections like hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Most injuries are preventable with proper practices and equipment.

Key strategies for sharps safety include:

- **Use Safety-Engineered Devices:** Choose devices with built-in safety features, such as retractable needles, needle-free intravenous (IV) systems, and sheathed needles, which help prevent accidental injuries.
- **Dispose of Sharps Properly:** Always place used sharps in strong, puncture-resistant containers right after use. Avoid overfilling containers.
- **Practice Hands-Free Passing:** Reduce the risk of injury by not passing sharps hand-to-hand. If passing is necessary, use verbal alerts.
- **Workplace Preparation:** Organize work areas with easily accessible sharps containers, ensure good lighting, and focus on the task to avoid accidents from distractions or rushing.

Healthcare facilities that foster a "culture of safety" with a shared commitment to injury prevention, reporting systems, and regular safety training can greatly reduce the risk of sharps injuries.

Learn more by visiting the [CDC's sharps safety program resource page](#).