The threat of drug-resistant fungi and other microbes on Americans is an alarmingly aggressive threat to all of us made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic – especially those with chronic conditions.

Without effective antifungal and other antimicrobial medicines, patients lose not just treatments for serious infections, but also face significantly increased risks from many medical services that rely upon the effective prevention and treatment of infections, especially for those with weakened immune systems.

**URGENT THREAT: Multidrug-Resistant Candida Auris Yeast**

- Included on CDC’s ‘Urgent Threat’ list of resistant pathogens
- Causes severe infections, spreads easily and is resistant to multiple drugs
- Cases increased more than 300% in 2018 compared to 2015-2017
- 90% of infections are resistant to at least one antifungal drug
- 30% of infections are resistant to at least two antifungal drugs

Sources: [Biggest Threats and Data | Antibiotic/Antimicrobial Resistance | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov); [Drug-Resistant Candida Auris (cdc.gov)](https://www.cdc.gov)

**TERRITORY EXPANDING: Soil Fungus Causing Valley Fever**

*Coccidiodes immitis* fungus:

- 15,000 cases reported each year
- Symptoms last weeks to a few months
- 40% of people with valley fever are hospitalized at an average cost of $50,000
- 5-10% of people infected develop serious or long-term lung problems
- Lives in top 2-12 inches of soil
- Disturbing the soil spreads fungus spores
- Valley fever symptoms mimic other illnesses, leading to delayed diagnosis

**ACTION NEEDED:** Development of new diagnostics and antifungal treatments to reduce the toll of drug-resistant antifungal infections.