

Candida albicans

Hazards: *Candida albicans* is a fungus that is a common part of the human microbial flora and is considered an opportunistic pathogen. When overgrown, *C. albicans* can cause thrush (infection of the mouth), vaginal yeast infection, and skin infections. Symptoms may include white patches, swelling, and itching.

Risks: Transmission occurs through direct contact with a sick individual or contaminated surface. Though most infections result from a person's own flora, the greatest risk of exposure to *C. albicans* is during cage changes where there is contact with contaminated bedding and cages.

Precautions: Wear PPE during cage changes (gloves, gown, and booties). Use a biosafety cabinet during cage changes. Follow ABSL-2 procedures for bedding disposal. Wash hands after work.

Emergency Response: If you are working in this area and develop symptoms, tell your supervisor and report to Occupational Medicine. Potential exposures and illnesses must be reported to EHRS by your supervisor or manager.