

FUNGAL Pathogens

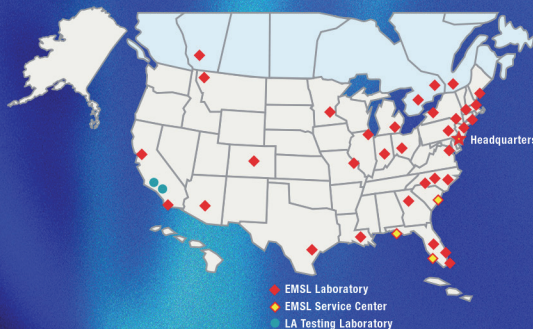
ASSOCIATED WITH HOSPITALS & HEALTHCARE

ALTHOUGH ALMOST ANYONE CAN DEVELOP A FUNGAL INFECTION, PEOPLE WITH A WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEM ARE OFTEN AT HIGHER RISK. THESE TYPES OF INFECTIONS, KNOWN AS OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS, CAN BE CAUSED BY NUMEROUS TYPES OF FUNGI.

PEOPLE WITH A WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEM WHO ARE RECEIVING TREATMENT IN HOSPITALS OR OTHER HEALTHCARE SETTINGS MAY BE AT AN INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPING A FUNGAL INFECTION DURING THEIR TREATMENT. FUNGAL DISEASES AND OUTBREAKS HAVE BEEN LINKED TO A VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING EXPOSURE TO DISEASE-CAUSING FUNGI IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, INDOOR ENVIRONMENT AND DUE TO CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT AND MEDICATIONS.

SOME TYPES OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS CAN BE DEADLY IF THEY ARE NOT IDENTIFIED AND TREATED QUICKLY, SO EARLY RECOGNITION IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS AND SAVE LIVES.

United States and Canada Locations



ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY FUNGAL DISEASES THAT CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE, LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE MORE PREVALENT INFECTIONS. THEY INCLUDE:

ASPERGILLOSIS - *Aspergillus* is a common fungus that can be found in indoor and outdoor environments. ASPERGILLOSIS is a disease caused by this fungus and usually occurs in people with lung diseases or weakened immune systems. THE SPECTRUM OF ILLNESS INCLUDES ALLERGIC REACTIONS, LUNG INFECTIONS AND INFECTIONS IN OTHER ORGANS.

INVASIVE CANDIDIASIS - INVASIVE CANDIDIASIS is a fungal infection that can occur when *Candida* yeasts enter the bloodstream. CANDIDEMIA (A BLOODSTREAM INFECTION WITH CANDIDA), IS EXTREMELY RARE IN PEOPLE WITHOUT RISK FACTORS, BUT IT IS THE FOURTH MOST COMMON BLOODSTREAM INFECTION AMONG HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

MUCORMYCOSES - ALSO KNOWN AS ZYGOMYCOSIS, IT IS AN INFECTION CAUSED BY FUNGI BELONGING TO THE MUCORMYCOTINA SUB-PHYLUM IN THE ORDER MUCORALES. THE MOST COMMONLY AFFECTED PARTS OF THE BODY ARE THE SINUSES OR LUNGS. IF THE INFECTION IS NOT TREATED QUICKLY, THE FUNGUS CAN SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE BODY, AND THEN THE INFECTION IS OFTEN FATAL.

FUSARIOSIS - THIS TYPE OF INFECTION IS CAUSED BY *Fusarium* SPECIES. *Fusarium* CAN BE PATHOGENIC TOWARDS BOTH HUMANS AND MANY TYPES OF PLANTS. THEIR INFECTIONS MAY BE CONFINED TO THE SUPERFICIAL SKIN, OR TO FULLY SYSTEMIC INVOLVEMENT, THEREBY, AFFECTING ALL BODY REGIONS AND ORGAN SYSTEMS. *Fusarium* HAS BEEN LINKED TO OUTBREAKS OF KERATITIS OR INFLAMMATION OF THE CORNEA.

PNEUMOCYSTIS PNEUMONIA (PCP) - THIS IS A SERIOUS ILLNESS CAUSED BY THE FUNGUS *Pneumocystis jirovecii*. PCP IS ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENT AND SEVERE OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS IN PEOPLE WITH WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS, PARTICULARLY PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS.

FUNGAL MENINGITIS - IN 2012, AN OUTBREAK OF FUNGAL MENINGITIS OCCURRED THAT WAS TRACED BACK TO CONTAMINATED STEROID INJECTIONS. THE OUTBREAK RESULTED IN HUNDREDS OF INFECTIONS AND NUMEROUS DEATHS. THE PREDOMINANT FUNGUS IDENTIFIED IN PATIENTS WAS *Exserohilum rostratum*.

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