



# SUPERBUGS

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# Unstoppable

## 2009

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Doctors gather at a hospital. It is in Tokyo, Japan. They are puzzled. A strange goo oozes from a woman's ear. The lab tests a sample. Results show it is a **fungus**. No one has ever seen it before. They call it *C. auris*.

## 2012–2013

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*C. auris* begins popping up around the world. It is seen in South America. There are **outbreaks** across Africa. **Infections** happen in India. Experts notice something strange. The germ is not being carried to these places. No one is transporting it. Instead, it seems to be appearing out of nowhere. Up to half of the people who get it die.



**FAST FACT:** *C.* is short for *Candida*.

This is a type of single-celled fungus. *Auris* means "ear" in Latin.



***C. AURIS* FUNGUS**

## 2015–2016

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A hospital in London has a problem. There is a germ going around their intensive care unit. They decide to evacuate. Patients are moved into **isolation**. Then staff members go to work. Every surface is scrubbed down. Rooms are filled with a gas. This is supposed to kill all germs.

Later, they do tests. Special plates are put out. These collect germs. At first, it looks like everything was killed. Then they look closer. Only one germ remains. Nothing could kill this one. It is *C. auris*.



## 2018–2019

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A man walks into a hospital for surgery. This is in New York. He tests **positive** for *C. auris*. Hundreds have already been sickened by it in the U.S. Doctors want to stop the spread. They isolate the man. But they cannot save him. Soon, he dies.

They test the room. *C. auris* is everywhere. It is on phones, faucets, lights, and door handles. The fungus hides in breathing tubes. *C. auris* even clings to the curtains.

The hospital has no choice. Ceilings are torn out. Floors get ripped up. Walls are knocked down. Hospital workers will do anything to stop the germ. But they are too late. It spreads to 50 more people. Some say it cannot be stopped.



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# SUPERBUGS

Germs and bacteria are everywhere. They are on surfaces we touch every day, and millions of them live inside our bodies. Some of these bacteria can make us sick. Most illnesses can be treated with medicine, but sometimes a superbug hits. These powerful germs have evolved to survive most drugs, leaving doctors puzzled over how to treat them. Learn how science is tackling these new enemies.

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