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[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Fungal Infections

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/fungalinfections.html>

Fungal Infections

Also called: Mycoses

If you have ever had athlete's foot [<https://medlineplus.gov/athletesfoot.html>] or a yeast infection [<https://medlineplus.gov/yeastinfections.html>], you can blame a fungus. A fungus is a primitive organism. Mushrooms, mold [<https://medlineplus.gov/molds.html>] and mildew are examples. Fungi live in air, in soil, on plants and in water. Some live in the human body. Only about half of all types of fungi are harmful.




Some fungi reproduce through tiny spores in the air. You can inhale the spores or they can land on you. As a result, fungal infections often start in the lungs or on the skin. You are more likely to get a fungal infection if you have a weakened immune system or take antibiotics.

Fungi can be difficult to kill. For skin and nail infections, you can apply medicine directly to the infected area. Oral antifungal medicines are also available for serious infections.


Start Here

- Fungal Diseases [<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Fungal Culture Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/fungal-culture-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-cultivo-fungico/>]
- Rash Evaluation [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/rash-evaluation/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/evaluacion-de-sarpullido/>]
- Skin Rashes and Other Skin Problems [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/skin-rashes-skin-problems/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/erupciones-de-cutaneas-leves-y-otros-cambios-en-el-piel/?adfree=true>]
- Sputum Culture [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/sputum-culture/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/cultivo-de-esputo/>]

Prevention and Risk Factors

- Fungus Infections: Preventing Recurrence [<https://www.aocd.org/page/FungusInfectionsP?>]
 (American Osteopathic College of Dermatology)
- Preventing the Spread of C. auris [<https://www.cdc.gov/candida-auris/prevention/>]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Risk Factors for Fungal Diseases [<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/risk-factors/>]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)


Treatments and Therapies

- **New!** Treating Fungal Diseases with Antifungals [<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/treatment/index.html>]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Related Issues

- Guidance for Investigating Fungal Disease Outbreaks [<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/php/guidance-investigating-outbreaks/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Specifics



- About Cryptococcosis [<https://www.cdc.gov/cryptococcosis/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Fungal Meningitis [<https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/about/fungal-meningitis.html>]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Blastomycosis Basics [<https://www.cdc.gov/blastomycosis/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Fungal Sinusitis [<https://www.enthealth.org/conditions/fungal-sinusitis/>]
 (American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery)
- Mucormycosis Basics [<https://www.cdc.gov/mucormycosis/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Nail Fungal Infections [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/nail-fungal-infections/?adfree=true>]
(American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/infecciones-micoticas-en-las-unas-es/?adfree=true>]
- Nail Fungus [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/nail-fungus/symptoms-causes/syc-20353294?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/nail-fungus/symptoms-causes/syc-20353294?p=1>]
- Ringworm and Fungal Nail Infections Basics [<https://www.cdc.gov/ringworm/about/>]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Sporotrichosis Basics [<https://www.cdc.gov/sporotrichosis/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Tinea Versicolor [<https://www.aad.org/public/diseases/a-z/tinea-versicolor-overview?NoAds>]
(American Academy of Dermatology)
- What Is Fungal Keratitis? [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-fungal-keratitis>]
(American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/queratitis-fungica>]

Images

- Fungal Nail Infection (Onychomycosis) [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/onychomycosis/?!miw9cApl=1>]
(VisualDX)

- Tinea Versicolor [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/tinea-versicolor/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Histoplasmosis [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Histoplasmosis%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Mycoses [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Mycoses%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Increased Rates of Purpureocillium lilacinum Mold among Laboratory Culture Results, United... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/41017071>]
- Article: The Impact of Genetic Polymorphisms on the Clinical Efficacy of Azole... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/41010003>]
- Article: Trend Analysis of Fungal Infections Based on Culture among Inpatients in... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40967820>]
- Fungal Infections -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Mycoses%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [<https://www.cdc.gov/>]
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/>]
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>] 

Patient Handouts

- Blastomycosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000102.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000102.htm>]
- Cryptococcosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001328.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001328.htm>]
- Fungal nail infection [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001330.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001330.htm>]
- Mucormycosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000649.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000649.htm>]
- Sputum fungal smear [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003736.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003736.htm>]
- Tinea versicolor [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001465.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001465.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Blastomycosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000102.htm>]
- Cryptococcosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001328.htm>]
- Fungal arthritis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000444.htm>]
- Fungal nail infection [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001330.htm>]
- Hypersensitivity pneumonitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000109.htm>]
- Lymph node culture [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003737.htm>]
- Mucormycosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000649.htm>]
- Skin lesion of blastomycosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000865.htm>]
- Sporotrichosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001338.htm>]
- Sputum fungal smear [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003736.htm>]
- Synovial biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003922.htm>]
- Tinea versicolor [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001465.htm>]

Related Health Topics

- Aspergillosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/aspergillosis.html>]
- Athlete's Foot [<https://medlineplus.gov/athletesfoot.html>]
- Histoplasmosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/histoplasmosis.html>]
- Molds [<https://medlineplus.gov/molds.html>]
- Pneumocystis Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/pneumocystisinfections.html>]
- Tinea Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/tineainfections.html>]
- Valley Fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/valleyfever.html>]
- Yeast Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/yeastinfections.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Fungal Infections* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

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