**CLOSTRIDIIOIDES DIFFICILE**  
(formerly known as *Clostridium difficile*)

**IMPACT**

| **C. diff infection** is estimated to cause almost half a million illnesses in the United States each year, and an estimated 29,300 deaths.¹ | About **1 in 6 patients** who get *C. diff* infection will get it again in the subsequent 2–8 weeks.³ | One in 11 people over 65 diagnosed with a healthcare-associated *C. diff* infection die within a month.² |

**RISK**

| People are 7 to 10 times more likely to get *C. diff* infection while taking an antibiotic and during the month after.³ | Extended stays in healthcare settings, such as hospitals and nursing homes, also increase their risk. | More than 80% of *C. diff* deaths occur in people 65 and older. |

**SPREAD**

| *C. diff* spreads when people touch surfaces that are contaminated with poop from an infected person. | Or when people don’t wash their hands with soap and water. | It can also happen when one healthcare facility fails to notify another when it transfers a patient with *C. diff*. |

**Healthcare professionals can help PREVENT *C. diff* by:**

| Optimizing the way they prescribe antibiotics. | Using the tests that give the most accurate results. | Rapidly identifying and isolating patients with *C. diff*. | Wearing gloves and gowns when treating patients with *C. diff*—and remembering that hand sanitizer doesn’t kill *C. diff*. | Cleaning surfaces in rooms where *C. diff* patients are treated with EPA-approved, spore-killing disinfectant (see list K). |

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