DEADLY DIARRHEA:  
C. DIFFICILE CAUSES IMMENSE SUFFERING, DEATH

IMPACT

Caused close to half a million illnesses in one year.

Comes back at least once in about 1 in 5 patients who get C. difficile.

For people over 65, one in 11 died of a healthcare-associated CDI within a month of receiving a diagnosis with C. difficile.

People on antibiotics are 7-10 times more likely to get C. difficle while on the drugs and during the month after.

Being in healthcare settings, especially hospitals or nursing homes.

More than 80% of C. difficile deaths occurred in people 65 and older.

RISK

Touching unclean surfaces, especially those in healthcare settings, contaminated with feces from an infected person.

Dirty hands.

Failing to notify other healthcare facilities when patients with C. difficile transfer from one facility to another.

SPREAD

PREVENT

Improve prescribing of antibiotics.

Use best tests for accurate results to prevent spread.

Rapidly identify and isolate patients with C. difficile.

Wear gloves and gowns when treating patient with C. difficile. Remember that hand sanitizer doesn’t kill C. difficile.

Clean room surfaces with EPA-approved, spore-killing disinfectant (such as bleach), where C. difficile patients are treated.

http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/cdiff/Cdiff_infect.html
www.cdc.gov/media

Table 3 from Lessa FC, Mu Y, Bamberg WM et al. N Engl J Med 2015;372:825-34. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1408913