

Staff Huddle: What is *Clostridioides difficile* or *C. difficile* and its symptoms. - Week #1

- *Clostridioides difficile* is formerly known as *Clostridium difficile* and often called *C. difficile* or *C. diff*. (*C. Diff*) is a bacterium that causes inflammation of the intestines and causes diarrhea.⁶
- Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, stomach tenderness or pain, loss of appetite, and nausea.



Staff Huddle: How *C-diff* spreads- Week #2

- *C. diff* is shed in fecal matter or stool. Any surface, device, or material (such as commodes, bathtubs, and electronic rectal thermometers) that becomes contaminated with feces could serve as a reservoir for the *C. diff* spores. *C. diff* spores can also be transferred to patients via the hands of healthcare personnel who have touched a contaminated surface or item.
- If someone with *C. diff* (or caring for someone with *C. diff*) doesn't clean their hands with soap and water after using the bathroom, they can spread the germs to people and things they touch.
 - This includes devices and surfaces that can serve as reservoirs, such as commodes, sink faucets, door handles, soiled bedding/clothing, toilet flushers, counters, floors and bathroom surfaces.



Staff Huddle: Steps Healthcare workers can take to prevent *C-diff*- Week #3

- Clean hands with soap and water before and after caring for every patient. This can prevent *C. diff* and other germs from being passed from one patient to another on their hands.
 - Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in rooms where *C. diff* patients are treated with EPA-approved, spore-killing disinfectant (see list K)
 - No shared equipment should be used between *C. diff* patients and others.
 - Staff must focus on cleaning regularly touched surfaces when in patient's room. These include but are not limited to toilet flushers, phones, keyboards, call lights, remotes, and overbed tables.

Staff Huddle: Prevention of *C. diff* continued -Week #4

- Use Contact Precautions to prevent *C. diff* from spreading to other patients.
 - Contact precautions are gown and gloves. Gowns and gloves need to be donned at entry point before contact with the patient or patient's environment.
 - Be sure that staff educate visitors of contact precautions and cleaning hands.
- Whenever possible, patients with *C. diff* should have a single room or share a room only with someone else who also has *C. diff*.
- Be antibiotic aware (using antibiotics appropriately).