

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that approximately half a million Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) infections occur per year; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 29,000 patients die within thirty days of the initial diagnosis of C. difficile, with about 15,000 of those deaths estimated to be directly attributable to the C. difficile infection; and

WHEREAS: Studies indicate that C. difficile has become the most common microbial cause of healthcare-associated infections in U.S. hospitals and costs up to \$4.8 billion each year in excess health care costs for acute care facilities alone; and

WHEREAS: 1 out of every 5 patients with a healthcare-associated C. difficile infection experiences a recurrence of the infection, and 1 out of every 9 patients aged 65 or older with a healthcare-associated C. difficile infection died within 30 days of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS: Health care facilities employ dedicated professionals who advocate for improving health and promoting patient and staff safety in order to minimize and prevent C. difficile; and

WHEREAS: Improved health practices, such as antibiotic stewardship, thorough hand hygiene, and environmental cleaning, can significantly reduce the risk and spread of C. difficile infections; and

WHEREAS: Ensuring the education of healthcare workers on proper infection prevention techniques is proven to reduce all types of healthcare-associated infections; and

WHEREAS: The health and safety of all Arkansans is important to the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of our families and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim November 2018, as

C. DIFFICILE INFECTION AWARENESS MONTH

across the State, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 18th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State