

**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: One out of every five patients with a healthcare-associated C. difficile infection experiences a recurrence of the infection, and 1 out of every 11 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 2019, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year of our Lord 2019.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State