

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 *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) infections occur per year that require hospital treatment or affect those already hospitalized; 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: *C. difficile* infection is most often seen after a recent antibiotic prescription, and antibiotic stewardship promotes the optimization of the prescription of antibiotics and reduces the number of persons receiving unnecessary antibiotics, which is an important component of prevention of *C. difficile* infection; and
- WHEREAS: Improved health practices, 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 2020, 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 21st day of October, in the year of our Lord 2020.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor