

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 each year that require hospital treatment or affect those already hospitalized; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 29,000 patients die within 30 days of the initial diagnosis of *C. difficile*, of which about 15,000 deaths are 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 in 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 experience a recurrence of the infection, and one out of every 11 patients aged 65 or older with a healthcare-associated *C. difficile* infection die 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* infections; 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, such as 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 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 2021, as

C. DIFFICILE INFECTION AWARENESS MONTH

across the State, and I call this observance to the attention of all of 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 5th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2021.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston
John Thurston, Secretary of State