

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE (C. DIFFICILE) INFECTION AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that nearly half a million *C. difficile* infections occurred in the United States in 2015; approximately 60 percent of these infections were found to be associated with inpatient stay in a hospital or nursing home; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 29,000 patients died within 30 days of the initial diagnosis of *C. difficile*, and more than 15,000 of these deaths were directly attributable to the infection; and

WHEREAS, older patients, residents of inpatient health care facilities, and patients who take antibiotics are most at risk for developing *C. difficile* infections; more than 80 percent of deaths associated with *C. difficile* occur among Americans aged 65 years or older; and

WHEREAS, *C. difficile* has become the most common microbial cause for health care-associated infections in United States hospitals, and creates up to \$4.8 billion in excess costs each year for acute care facilities alone; and

WHEREAS, improved antibiotic use and infection control are critical to preventing *C. difficile*; it is estimated that more than 50 percent of antibiotics are prescribed unnecessarily in outpatient settings for upper respiratory infections like cough and cold illness; and

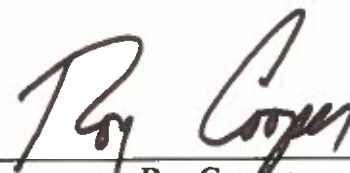
WHEREAS, health care facilities employ dedicated professionals who advocate staff and patient safety by promoting measures to minimize the prevalence of *C. difficile* infections; and

WHEREAS, educating health care workers on proper infection prevention techniques can reduce all types of health care-associated infections; basic practices, such as thorough hand hygiene and environmental cleaning, can significantly limit the risk and spread of *C. difficile*;

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages citizens to be aware of the dangers of *C. difficile* infection for the health, safety, and well-being of all our families and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November, 2017, as "**CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE (C. DIFFICILE) INFECTION AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.