

# C. difficile risk and prevention

The CDC reports that *Clostridium difficile* causes an estimated 500,000 illnesses a year and returns in about one in five patients who contracts the infection. About one in 11 people 65 and older die within a month of a *C. difficile* infection diagnosis.

## C. DIFFICILE RISK



People on antibiotics are 7–10 times more likely to get *C. difficile* while on the drugs and during the month



Being in health care settings, especially hospitals or nursing homes, increases risk.



More than 80 percent of *C. difficile* deaths occurred in people 65 and older.

## C. DIFFICILE PREVENTION



Improve prescribing of antibiotics.



Use best tests for accurate results to prevent spread.



Rapidly identify and isolate patients with *C. difficile*.



Wear gloves and gowns when treating patients with *C. difficile*.



Remember that hand sanitizer doesn't kill *C. difficile*.



Clean room surfaces with EPA-approved, spore-killing disinfectant where *C. difficile* patients are treated.