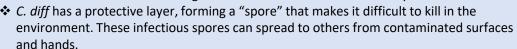
C. diff: Guidance for Shared Bathrooms

When resources allow, it is a best practice to designate a bathroom to individuals with *Clostridioides difficile (C. diff)* infection. *C. diff* is a germ that causes diarrhea and inflammation of the colon. This information is intended for group home and home care settings that have shared bathrooms.



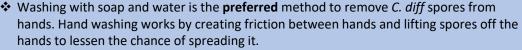
C. diff Facts

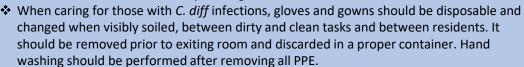
- C. diff is a bacteria found in the gastrointestinal tract that can cause colitis (inflammation of the colon), fever, stomach pain, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea and dehydration.
- ❖ Antibiotic use can lead to a *C. diff* infection.
- ❖ Infection can be life threatening for those with weakened immune systems.





Hand Hygiene & Personal Protective Equipment





Educate ill individuals about the importance of proper hand hygiene after using the restroom and before eating.



Cleaning and Disinfection

- The environment should be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly with a sporicidal product, or a bleach mixture, after use by the infected individual.
 - See <u>EPA's List K</u> for a list of these products. Be sure to adhere to contact time of the product.
 - You can also make a bleach mixture at home. Mix 1 part bleach to 9 parts water.
- ❖ Always work systematically from cleanest to dirtiest and from top to bottom.
- ❖ Pay extra attention to high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, faucet handles, toilet flush handles, toilet seats, and walls or toilet safety rails.
- When cleaning, don't forget to wear your gloves and wash your hands with soap and water after removing and discarding gloves.
- Additional information can be found here:
 - o *C. diff* Prevention-Information for Patients
 - o CDC Environmental Cleaning Procedures



Additional Tips

- Set up a communication system to notify staff, residents, and visitors that the bathroom has been used and needs to be cleaned. This may include signage, frequent rounding, call system, or another method of communication.
- ❖ Infected individuals should shower instead of taking a bath when possible, in order to wash spores down the drain quickly.



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