DEADLY DIARRHEA: 
C. DIFFICILE CAUSES IMMENSE SUFFERING, DEATH

IMPACT

- Caused close to half a million illnesses in one year.
- Comes back at least once in about 1 in 5 patients who get C. difficile.
- 1 in 11 people 65 and older died within a month of C. difficile infection diagnosis.

RISK

- People on antibiotics are 7-10 times more likely to get C. difficile while on the drugs and during the month after.
- Being in healthcare settings, especially hospitals or nursing homes.
- More than 80% of C. difficile deaths occurred in people 65 and older.

SPREAD

- Touching unclean surfaces, especially those in healthcare settings, contaminated with feces from an infected person.
- Dirty hands.
- Failing to notify other healthcare facilities when patients with C. difficile transfer from one facility to another.

PREVENT

- 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 patient with C. difficile. Remember that hand sanitizer doesn’t kill C. difficile.
- Clean room surfaces with EPA-approved, spore-killing disinfectant (such as bleach), where C. difficile patients are treated.

http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/cdiff/Cdiff_infect.html
www.cdc.gov/media