



Gary Richard Herbert

Governor

## Declaration

Whereas, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that approximately half a million *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff.*) infections annually require hospital treatment or affect those already hospitalized;

Whereas, approximately 29,000 patients die within thirty days of the initial diagnosis of *C. diff.*, with 15,000 deaths estimated to be directly attributable to *C. diff.* infection;

Whereas, studies indicate that *C. diff.* has become the most common microbial cause of healthcare-associated infections in U.S. hospitals;

Whereas, one in five patients with a healthcare-associated *C. diff.* infection experience a recurrence of the infection and one in nine patients aged 65 or older with a healthcare-associated *C. diff.* infection die within 30 days of diagnosis;

Whereas, improved health practices, such as thorough hand hygiene, and environmental cleaning can significantly reduce the risk and spread of *C. diff.* infections;

Whereas, ensuring the education of healthcare workers on proper infection prevention techniques has proven to reduce all types of healthcare associated infections; and,

Whereas, the health and safety of all Utahns is important to the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of our families and communities;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the great State of Utah, do hereby declare November 15, 2017, as

*Clostridium Difficile Infection Awareness Day*

Gary R. Herbert

Governor