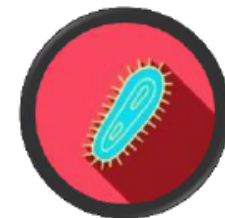


# Clostridium Difficile Infection Rate



*C. difficile* is one of the many types of bacteria that can be found in feces (bowel movement), and has been a known cause of health care-associated diarrhea. *C. difficile* can be picked up on the hands from exposure in the environment and can get into the stomach once the mouth is touched, or if food is handled and then swallowed. Once in the stomach, the bacteria usually will not cause any problems unless the other bowel bacteria are disturbed, which can happen when antibiotics are taken. The use of antibiotics increases the chances of developing *C. difficile* diarrhea as it alters the normal level of good bacteria found in the intestines and colon. Good hand washing by everyone, healthcare staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and visitors, is the single-most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases like *C. difficile*.

**Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI)**  
**Rate per 1000 patient days and number of cases**

