

Infection Control

Pathogen Primer

Clostridium Difficile

Clostridium Difficile Explained

Clostridium Difficile (C. Diff.) is a bacterium that causes colitis, or inflammation of the colon.

How you get sick from C. Diff

C. Diff. bacteria are found in feces. People become infected if they touch items or surfaces contaminated with feces and then touch their mouth or mucous membranes. Healthcare workers can also spread the bacteria through their hands to other patients or onto surfaces.

Information about C. Diff.:

- Everyone naturally has C. Diff. bacteria living in their colon, but they are suppressed by other bacteria present in the colon.
- C. Diff. typically lives in a dormant spore form, meaning it can live for very long periods on surfaces.
- Symptoms of C. Diff. infection include: watery diarrhea, fever, nausea, and abdominal pain.

Other Information:

Patients undergoing treatment with antibiotics can be more susceptible to C. Diff. infection.

Infection Control Strategies:

Current CDC Guidance for treating C-Diff from a cleaning and disinfecting perspective is summarized as follows:

Isolate patients with C-Diff or suspected C-Diff related illness.

Follow all facility isolation and contact precautions.

Use a two step process for environmental cleaning and disinfecting. First, clean surfaces with an appropriate cleaner.

This could be a quaternary disinfectant. Second, wipe all surfaces with an EPA registered sporicidal disinfectant with specific claims for killing C-Diff Spores. Several different types of sporicidal products are currently available as indicated below:

Hypochlorite Bleach: EPA registered bleach with a C-Diff Spore claim. Effective, but bleach odors and potential damage to surfaces are a draw back.

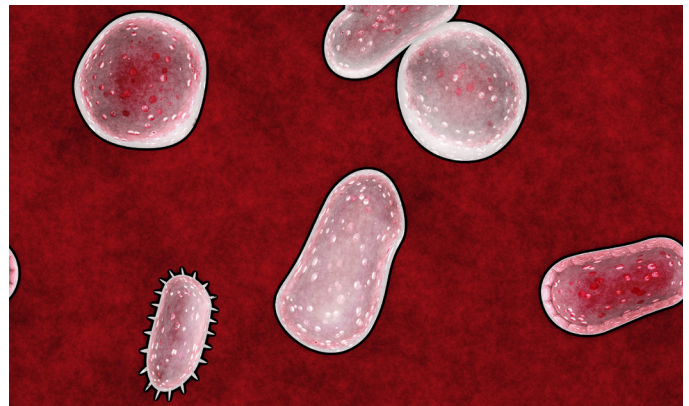
Peracetic Acid-Hydrogen Peroxide: These disinfectants also have C-Diff Spore Claims. Drawback is vinegar odor and also may be a respiratory irritant if sprayed.

Chlorinated Tablets: Effervescent Tablets when dissolved in water make a sporicidal disinfectant with C-Diff spore claims. Odor is similar to a "swimming pool". Unlike bleach, this is a solution that is mild on surfaces and won't destroy fabrics.

For more information, consult the CDC C-Diff webpage.

Multi-Clean offers Chlorinated Disinfecting Tablets as a solution for killing C-Diff Spores.

For more information, visit Multi-Clean.com



Dosage

1 tablet per quart, kills c-diff in 10 minutes

2 tablets per quart, kills c-diff in 4 minutes

Multi-Clean®