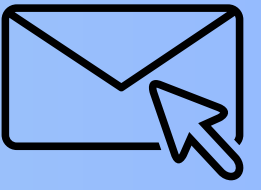


July 2024



# Monthly Newsletter



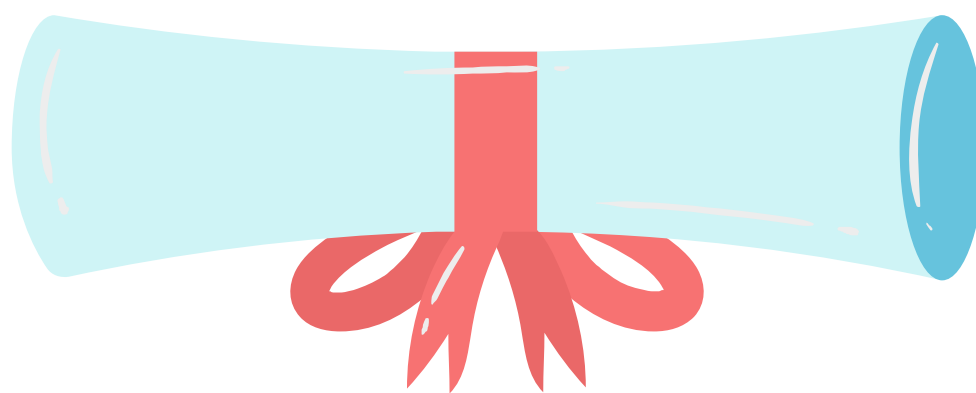
## WHAT'S NEW FROM THE IPAC HUB

**REC**

### Voiceover Presentations

- IPAC: Back to Basics
- Point of Care Risk Assessment
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

More to come!



### Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating fellow Halton IPAC Hub member, **Megan Bulicki**, for passing the CIC exam!



### Fact Sheets

- Toilet brush best practices
- Best practice for laundry chutes
- Safe handling of soiled linen

More to come!

## ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING REMINDER

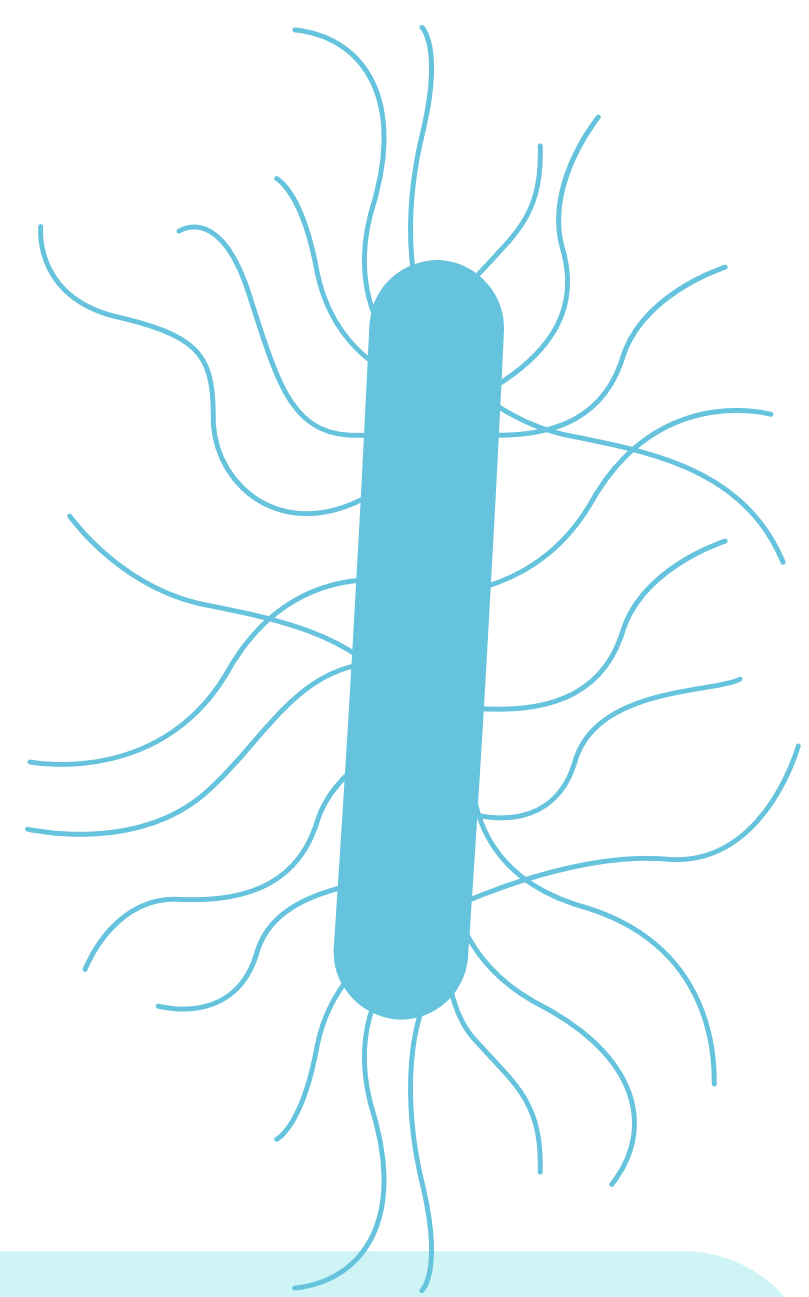
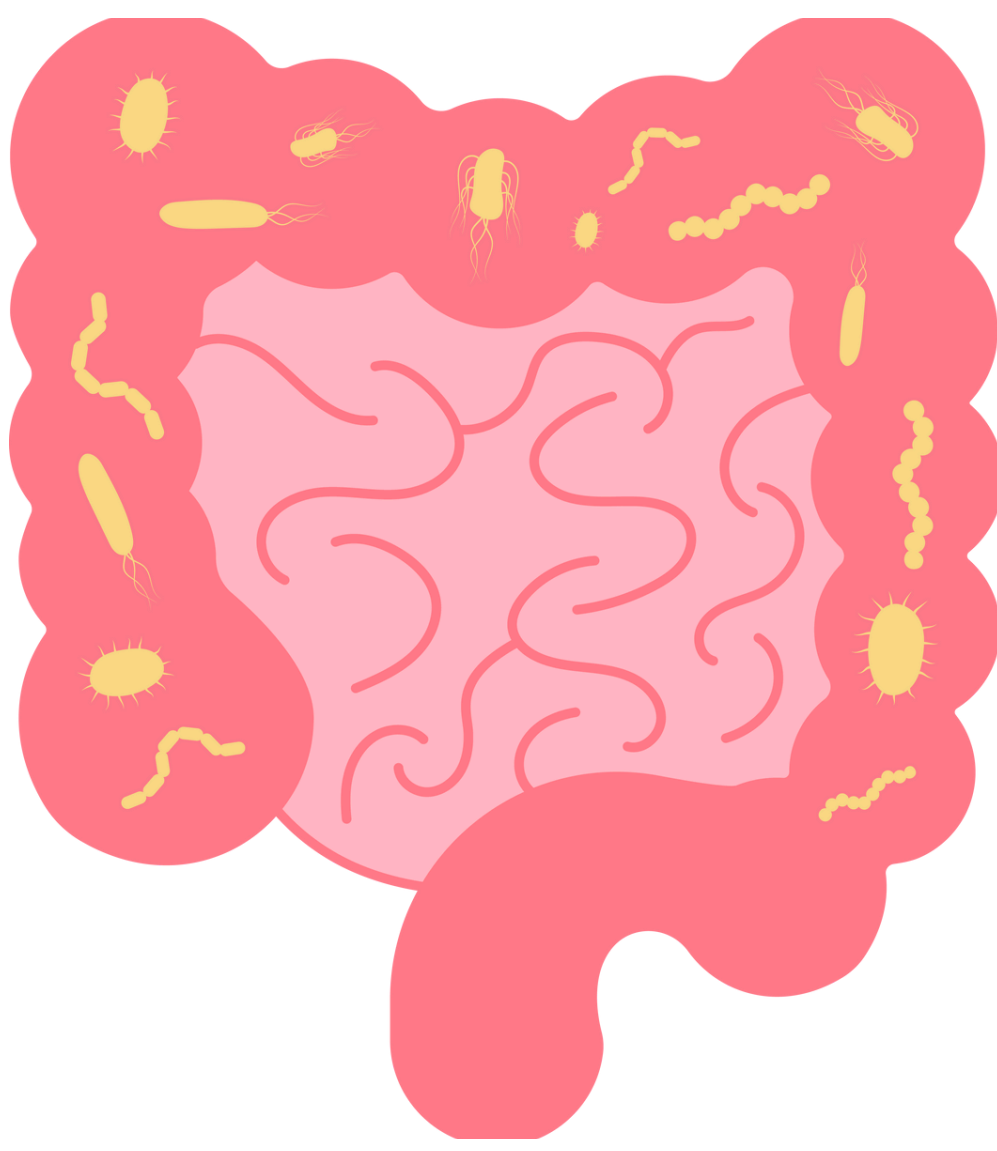
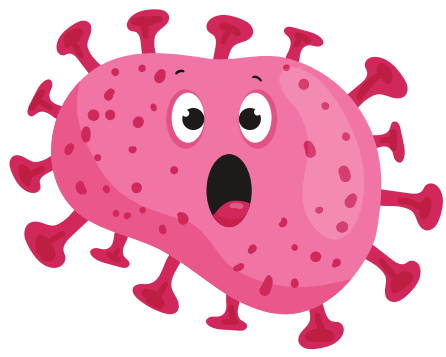
### Best Practices for Cleaning Carts:

- Keep clean and dirty items separated in the cart
- Ensure your cleaning cart does not contain food, drinks, or personal belongings
- Clean the cart thoroughly at the end of each day
- Ensure there is a secure compartment for cleaning & disinfecting products in each cart, keeping it locked when unattended
- Store the cleaning cart in a locked housekeeping closet when not in use



# BUG OF THE MONTH

## C.Difficile

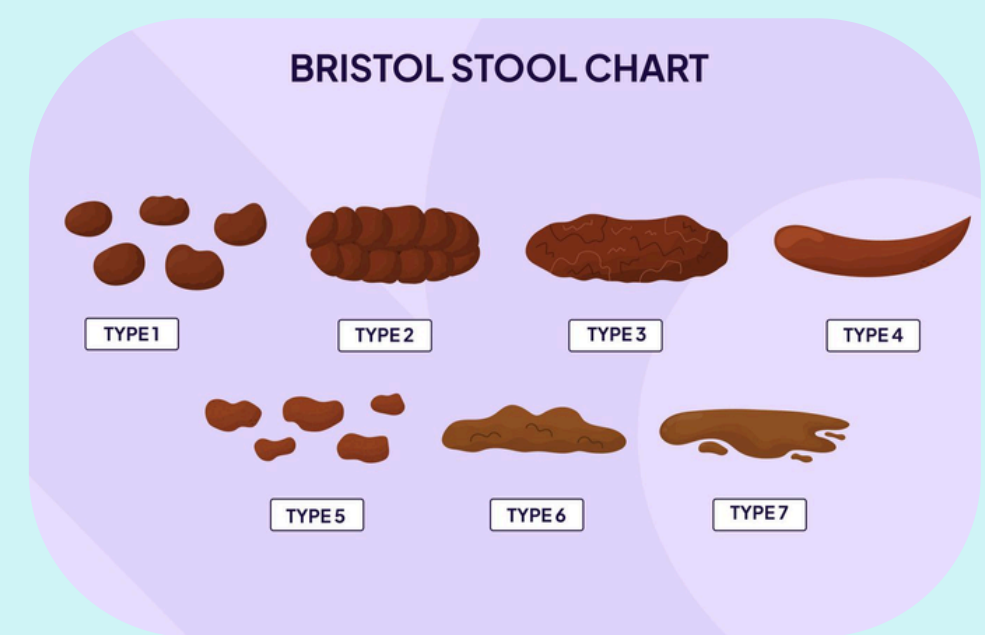


### WHAT IS IT?

- A bacteria that causes mild to severe diarrhea
- This bacteria is typically present in your regular gut flora. An imbalance where harmful bacteria outnumber beneficial ones provides an environment for C. Diff to thrive
- Outside of the body, C.Diff becomes a spore (inactive form of the germ). Spores have a protective coating, allowing them to survive for extended periods of time
  - Upon ingestion, these spores can reactivate in the intestines

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Watery diarrhea
  - (Type 6/7 on Bristol Stool Chart)
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain/tenderness



### DID YOU KNOW??

- Use **soap and water** to get rid of C.Diff because ABHR does not kill the C.Diff spores
- C.Difficile is the most frequent cause of infectious diarrhea in hospital and LTCH in Canada
- You can be colonized with C.Diff and not have any symptoms
  - Being colonized means that a person has C. diff germs in their body, but does not show symptoms

- C.Diff can cause inflammation of the colon

#### Risk Factors include:

- >/ 65 years of age
  - Recent antibiotic use
  - Recent stay at healthcare facility
  - A weakened immune system
  - Previous C.Difficile Infection
  - Use of proton pump inhibitors
- \*You can still get C.diff even if you have none of these risk factors

### TRANSMISSION

- Contact transmission (Indirect and Direct)
- Transmission occurs through
  - Indirect contact: touching surfaces contaminated with feces and then touching your mouth
  - Direct contact: touching feces contaminated with C.diff, not practicing proper hand hygiene and then touching your mouth
- HCW's can spread the bacteria to their residents if their hands are contaminated

### IPAC CONSIDERATIONS

- Contact precautions
  - Educate visitors on appropriate PPE
- Thorough cleaning (to remove spores) and disinfection with a sporicidal agent (to deactivate spores) should be performed
  - Twice daily cleaning of resident room and bathroom
- Resident can leave their room for activities and dining if stool can be contained and resident can perform hand hygiene



# FEEDBACK SURVEY

Please scan the QR code with your cell phone camera and provide the IPAC Hub with feedback and topic suggestions. Thank you!

[Survey Link](#)

## REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, March 6). About C. diff. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024b, April 23). C. diff Educational Resources. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Public Health Agency of Canada . (2013, July 12). CDI: Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Management in Long-term Care Facilities. Government of Canada.

Public Health Agency of Canada . (2014, May 2). C.Diff Fact Sheet. Government of Canada.

Public Health Ontario. (n.d.). Clostridioides difficile infections (CDI)

## RESOURCES

### **Environmental Cleaning:**

[PIDAC: Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings](#)

### **C.Difficile:**

[CDC: About C.Diff](#)

[CDC: C.Diff Educational Resources](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada \(PHAC\) - C.Diff Fact Sheet](#)

[PHAC: CDI - Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Management in Long-term Care Facilities](#)

[Public Health Ontario: Clostridioides difficile Infections \(CDI\)](#)