



**Reusable Textiles —
The Responsible Choice,
Because the Future is NOT Disposable**

The American Reusable Textile Association • PO Box 1142 • Mission, KS 66222 • www.arta1.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTA Response to UK Study on *C.diff* Removal

*Soon to be published study will reveal *C.diff* is killed on cotton textiles in tunnel washer programs typical in North America.*

MISSION, KS, October 24, 2018 — Healthcare laundry operators and their clients in the U.S. and Canada have expressed concern about a recent study published in *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology (ICHE)*, October 2018) that questions the effectiveness of the wash process to remove *Clostridium difficile (C.diff)* from healthcare textiles. The Association for Linen Management (ALM) issued a response Oct. 19 with which ARTA agrees. Access the ALM response [here](#).

Furthermore, the American Reusable Textile Association (ARTA) has recently completed research (soon to be published) on killing *C.diff* spores on cotton swatches in tunnel washer programs, typical of the professional laundry process in North America. This study will reveal improved spore removal and destruction compared to the washer/extractor study from the United Kingdom (UK). It is important to note that the UK approach to processing healthcare linen relies primarily on thermal applications.

ARTA's research will be instrumental in showing the efficacy of laundering programs that:

- Utilize sodium hypochlorite bleach processes,
- Eliminate the use of chlorine bleaches in response to the prevalence of CHG-based surgical preps and hand washes, and
- Use Peracetic acid-based bleaching as an alternative to sodium hypochlorite.

Additional research [based on processes used by the North American tunnel washer market] is needed on the ability to remove/destroy *C.diff* spores. The adherence, removal, and destruction of *C.diff* spores from synthetic and synthetic-blend cloths have not yet been evaluated.

[Access here](#) the ICHE study, "*From ward to washer: The survival of Clostridium difficile spores on hospital bed sheets through a commercial UK NHS healthcare laundry process.*"

ARTA was founded in 1982 with the mission to create greater awareness and appreciation for reusable textiles. Members represent all facets of the textile services industry — from manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors to profit and not-for-profit laundry operators, as well as allied associations. For more information: www.ARTAI.com.

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