

Inclusion criteria for reporting *C. difficile* infection to the surveillance system



Any of the following defines a *C. difficile* infection case in patients aged 2 years and above and must be reported to the HPA:

1. Diarrhoeal stools (Bristol Stool types 5-7) where the specimen is *C. difficile* toxin positive*.
2. Toxic megacolon or ileostomy where the specimen is *C. difficile* toxin positive*.
3. Pseudomembranous colitis revealed by lower gastro-intestinal endoscopy or Computed Tomography.
4. Colonic histopathology characteristic of *C. difficile* infection (with or without diarrhoea or toxin detection) on a specimen obtained during endoscopy or colectomy.
5. Faecal specimens collected post-mortem where the specimen is *C. difficile* toxin positive or tissue specimens collected post-mortem where pseudomembranous colitis is revealed or colonic histopathology is characteristic of *C. difficile* infection.

* DH/ARHAI have released guidance which incorporates *C. difficile* testing recommendations

Please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for further information.

This reporting guidance applies to English NHS acute Trusts and the Independent Sector.

Withdrawn May 2024