

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:

A patient is defined as a case if they are one year of age or older and have one of the following requirements:

- A laboratory confirmation of a positive toxin assay or positive PCR for *C. difficile*.
OR
- A diagnosis of pseudomembranes on sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy or histological/pathological diagnosis of *C. difficile*.
OR
- A diagnosis of toxic megacolon (adult patients age ≥ 18 years only).

Clinical Evidence

Clinical illness consists of diarrhea or fever, abdominal pain and/or ileus.

Reporting Requirements

- Report primary* confirmed cases to DHW Surveillance Team via Panorama.

*Only “primary” episodes should be reported as cases and are defined as either:

- First episode of *C. difficile* ever experienced.
OR
- A new episode of *C. difficile* which occurs > 8 weeks after the first toxin-positive assay.

Additional Forms

None.

Data Entry

Complete data entry in Panorama.