

Clostridioides difficile (C.Diff)

TAKE
ACTION

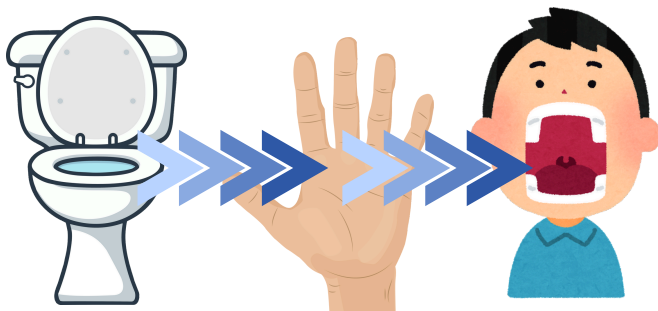
To prevent Clostridioides difficile

Wirral is seeing an increase in the number of people developing C.diff. We must work together to help reduce, prevent and stop C.diff from spreading.

C.diff is a bacteria (bug) that can be found in the gut, it doesn't necessarily cause any symptoms just by being there. If a person with C.diff is given antibiotics it can go on to cause infection and diarrhoea.

The impact of a person having C.diff infection can include admission to hospital, increased risk of getting the infection again and in serious cases can cause death.

Transmission of C.diff occurs through the faecal - oral route



This means the C.diff bugs from someone else's faeces (poo) are ingested (swallowed) by another person. This can happen by touching unclean surfaces or equipment, or having direct contact with faeces of an infected person, and not cleaning your hands.

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- Hand washing with **soap** and **water** before meals and after using the toilet (alcohol gel rubs are not effective for C.diff)
- Equipment such as commodes or hoists require **cleaning** and **disinfecting** between use, and when stored
- Crockery and drinking cups should be thoroughly cleaned with **hot soapy water** or processed through a **dishwasher**
- Keep the environment **clean** and **clutter free**, particularly toilet facilities
- Recognise symptoms of C.diff and **suspect infected** diarrhoea

IF YOU SUSPECT C.DIFF

- **Isolate** the person until you determine the cause of diarrhoea and monitor using **Bristol Stool Chart**
- **Prompt poo sample** collection and review of results to ensure the person receives treatment quickly
- Wear **gloves** and **apron** when caring for someone with C.diff

Once diarrhoea has stopped for 48 hours and the person has passed a normal poo, isolation is not normally required

