

# INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

# UPDATE

**NHS**

Wirral Community  
Health and Care  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Taking action to prevent infection

### Clostridioides difficile (*C.diff*) Update

March 2026

Wirral has seen an increase in people developing *C.diff* infection. The Community Infection Prevention and Control Service (IPCS) continue to complete reviews for people whose *C.diff* is associated to the community. The IPCS have identified learning and recurrent themes which we would like to share with system partners for your review.

#### 1. Presentation of unexplained diarrhoea suspect *C.diff*

Suspect infectious diarrhoea and obtain a sample for testing at the earliest opportunity. Follow the [when to take a sample for \*C.diff\*](#) flowchart.

#### 2. Informing patients of prompt delivery of stool sample when *C.diff* is suspected

To note: Out of hours and at weekends the sample with request form can be delivered directly to Bassendale lab (11 Bassendale Road CH62 3QL), if appropriate.

#### 3. Appropriate use of Loperamide

If *C.diff* infection is suspected, then antimotility drugs such as loperamide must be avoided as they can cause serious complications. Please also be aware that people with milder symptoms of *C.diff* infection may continue to self-treat with loperamide instead of seeking medical advice.

#### 4. Relapse or re-occurrence of *C.diff*

We are seeing an increase in people having a relapse or reoccurrence of *C.diff* infection. Ensuring people complete their course of *C.diff* treatment and that their symptoms have resolved will help reduce the risk of relapse/reoccurrence. Provide the person with a *C.diff* information leaflet and reinforce the need to seek medical advice at the earliest opportunity if symptoms haven't resolved.

Wirral Consultant Microbiologists have advised for people with a first reoccurrence (within 12 weeks) of *C.diff* to use Fidaxomicin as per Pan Mersey Formulary. If the person has a second recurrence, they need to be considered for referral for Faecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) (contact microbiology)

**For further guidance and support on the management of people with *C.diff*, refer to [Pan Mersey Formulary](#) or contact Medical Microbiology on 01244 362 500**

For more information, visit our IPC Digital Hub  
<https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/infection-prevention-and-control/>  
or contact the IPC team:  
0151 604 7750 [ipc.wirralct@nhs.net](mailto:ipc.wirralct@nhs.net)