


# Island Health Performance Measures

## Clostridium Difficile Disease



Year to Date Performance	2.4	Performance Assessment	 Green
Island Health Target	Less than or equal to 3.0	Performance is within the acceptable range; continue to monitor.	

### What do we measure and why?

*Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff.*) is a common type of healthcare-associated infectious diarrhea. People can be infected if they touch contaminated surfaces and then touch their mouth. Health care workers can also spread the bacteria to their patients if their hands are contaminated.

This indicator measures the rate of patients acquiring a new *C. diff.* infection while in hospital. It is reported per 10,000 patient days. 'Patient days' is equal to the number of patients in hospital, multiplied by the number of days they spent in hospital (e.g., 2 patients in hospital for 7 days = 2 x 7 = 14 patient days).

*C. diff.* adversely affects patient health and safety, and often leads to longer hospital stays and increased costs. *C. diff.* can be severe, sometimes requires surgery, and in extreme cases can cause death. Tracking *C. diff.* provides ongoing assessment of a hospital's ability to minimize the spread of infection through measures such as proper hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, and the judicious use of antibiotics.

### What is the target?

Island Health's target is 3.0 or fewer new infections per 10,000 patient days.

Lower rates are better.

### How are we doing?

As of November 2022, Island Health's rate of healthcare-associated *C. diff.* was meeting the target.

### What actions are we taking?

The Infection Prevention and Control Program has an ongoing *C. diff.* surveillance system. Early detection and intervention allows hospitals to prevent or limit *C. diff.* transmission.

When increasing *C. diff.* rates are noted, Infection Control initiates a more in-depth review of the targeted areas looking for sources of potential transmission. In collaboration with staff and frontline leadership, Infection Control strategies and information (such as hand hygiene rates) are shared and evaluated to determine the effectiveness of preventive measures. Facilities or units with an increase in rates have had multi-disciplinary risk mitigation meetings and huddles where cases are reviewed, infection control strategies are discussed, and preventive measures are evaluated approved and evaluated.