

## **Clostridium Difficile (C. Difficile or C. Diff) Stool Test:**

### **DESCRIPTION**

Clostridium difficile (commonly called C. difficile or C. diff) is a type of bacteria whose overgrowth from antibiotic use is associated with diarrhea and other gastrointestinal problems. The C. diff toxin test identifies the presence of this bacteria and the gene associated with toxin production. C. diff is present as normal flora in the digestive tract, but when broad-spectrum antibiotics are used to treat infections, typically for an extended period of time, the balance of the normal flora is disrupted and the overgrowth of clostridium difficile is allowed to occur.

The growth of C. difficile can lead to damage of the gastrointestinal lining. The resulting symptoms can range from mild diarrhea to a more severe toxic megacolon. C. difficile is the primary cause for psuedomembraneous colitis.

### **WHY DO I NEED AN CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE STOOL TEST?**

If experiencing mild, moderate, or severe diarrhea that persists for several days, especially after recent antibiotic therapy. This test will screen for the toxin which is produced by the Clostridium difficile bacteria.

### **AM I REQUIRED TO FAST?**

No, fasting is not required. There are no dietary or medicinal restrictions to take this test.

### **WHAT IS THE SAMPLE REQUIRED?**

A stool sample in a clean container provided by the laboratory is required for this test

### **IS A DOCTOR'S ORDER REQUIRED?**

No. You do not need to provide a doctor's order to get lab testing done at Any Lab Test Now.

### **WHEN WILL I GET MY TEST RESULTS?**

Test results generally take between 5 to 8 business hours after your specimen is collected.

### **DO I NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?**

No. You can walk in for same day testing. We make it easy for you by offering work-friendly hours.

### **IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY TESTS RESULTS WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?**

We recommend you share your results with your primary care physician or with your Gastroenterologist.