

Preventing *Clostridioides difficile* Infection (C. diff)

What is C. Diff?

- *Clostridioides difficile* (also known as C. diff) is a germ that causes relentless diarrhea and inflammation of the colon.
- C. diff spores can live on surfaces for five months. Taking appropriate precautions is critical for the safety of our patients, visitors, and staff.
- Because C. diff is contagious, it is important to help us prevent the spread of these germs to our patients.

Box Strategy

- The Box Strategy is a solution aimed at preventing the spread of germs through better adherence to isolation practices.
- All rooms with isolation precautions will have a brightly colored square outline placed on the floor just inside the threshold of the door (except Airborne- bright pink sign).
- The square is a space where you can enter the room without having to wear gowns and gloves. The square is ideal for quick communication or visual assessment.
- If you need to enter the room beyond the square, please put on all appropriate PPE.

High-touch Areas

- Defender is the product EVS uses to clean enteric isolation rooms as well as floors in all rooms.
- The use of Defender is required for enteric rooms because it kills spores like CDI.
- All other staff must use bleach wipes (orange top PDI wipes) to disinfect items brought in and out of patient rooms. When using bleach wipes, it is important to keep surfaces WET for a minimum of 4 minutes.

Use the table to the right as a guide when cleaning C. diff patient rooms. →

C. diff Patient Rooms				
Surface	Product	Kill Time	Dilution	Application Medium (pre-saturated wipe/rag)
Floor	Defender	4 min	4306	Disposable Flat Mop
Other Surfaces Step 1	Oxivir TB	5 min	Pre-diluted	Disposable Pre-Sat Wipe
Other Surfaces Step 2	Defender	4 min	4306	Disposable Rag



Use of gloves and practicing proper hand hygiene when entering and exiting an isolation room is crucial.



Patients with C. diff are placed in enteric isolation (purple sign). Hand Hygiene for enteric isolation requires the use of soap and water. Alcohol based hand gels are not effective at removing C. diff spores.

