Guidance to Providers: Isolation Policy with New 2-Stage Testing for *C. difficile* Infection

All patients for whom a *C. difficile* test is ordered are placed on empiric Contact Precautions.

- **(-)** If a test for *C. difficile* is ordered, and the patient is negative for *C. difficile* toxin gene by PCR (first part of the test) and an alternative diagnosis for the diarrheal symptoms is documented by the patient’s provider, then Contact Precautions may be discontinued.

- **(+, -)** If a test for *C. difficile* is ordered, and the patient is positive for *C. difficile* toxin gene by PCR (first part of the test), BUT negative for *C. difficile* toxin by antigen detection (second part of the test), the following guidelines apply for removing contact isolation precautions:
  1. The patient remains on contact isolation until the patient returns to his/her normal stooling pattern for minimum of 48 hours.
  2. Discharge or transfer from room so that all surfaces in room may be cleaned thoroughly
     a. Patient must be bathed,
     b. Place patient in a clean gown, and
     c. Place patient in a clean bed if transferred to a new room
  3. **NOTE:** A negative test is NOT required (and should not performed) for removal from isolation.

- **(+, +)** If a patient is positive for *C. difficile* toxin gene by PCR, AND positive for *C. difficile* toxin by antigen detection, the patient can be removed from contact isolation per current VUMC guidelines as outlined below:
  1. The patient remains on contact isolation until the patient returns to his/her normal stooling pattern for minimum of 48 hours AND
  2. Patient is off of *C. difficile*-specific treatment
  3. Discharge or transfer from room so that all surfaces in room may be cleaned thoroughly
     a. Patient must be bathed,
     b. Place patient in a clean gown, and
     c. Place patient in a clean bed if transferred to a new room
  4. **NOTE:** A negative test is NOT required (and should not performed) for removal from isolation.