



Department of Health and Human Services  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
286 Water Street  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel. (207) 287-8016  
Fax (207) 287-9058; TTY (800) 606-0215

HETL

Tel. (207) 287-2727  
Fax (207) 287-1727

December 29, 2011

Dear HETL Client:

HETL is pleased to announce the launch of a new real time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay for *Clostridium difficile*. The test is designed to detect *C. difficile* bacteria in stool, mixed cultures or confirm *C. difficile* identification directly from isolates.

HETL clients can order the test directly on a fee for testing basis. More specific information for clients can be found at our web site ([www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab)). Find the link on our home page entitled: "Microbiology Testing: How to Submit Samples" and download the document entitled "Clostridium difficile". HETL will continue to provide the test to clinical submitters on a fee waived basis during outbreak investigations conducted by MeCDC.

Additionally, clinicians or infection control personnel may contact MeCDC directly for information regarding molecular sub-typing of *C. difficile* isolates by PFGE for outbreak control. This service is available on a case by case basis and is free of charge. For more information on this service please contact Peg Shore at MeCDC infectious disease epidemiology at: 287-6028.

Please feel free to contact HETL bacteriology with specific question about the *Clostridium difficile* real time PCR test at 207-287-1704.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Pote, Ph.D.  
Chief of Laboratory Operations  
Me-CDC Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory