

## Supplementary File S1: Vector Construction

pMC421: A 600 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *sinR* (CD2214) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* 630 $\Delta$ *erm* genomic DNA using primers oMC1008 and oMC1009. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC426: A 400 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *oppB* (CD0853) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* 630 $\Delta$ *erm* genomic DNA using primers oMC1012 and oMC1015. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC451: A 600 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *appA* (CD2672) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* 630 $\Delta$ *erm* genomic DNA using primers oMC1025 and oMC1026. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC453: A 600 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *appA* operon was amplified from *C. difficile* UK1 genomic DNA using primers oMC1025 and oMC1026. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC463: A 400 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *oppB* operon was amplified from *C. difficile* UK1 genomic DNA using primers oMC1012 and oMC1015. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC474: A 250 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *oppB* (CD0853) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* 630 $\Delta$ *erm* genomic DNA using primers oMC1012 and oMC1074. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

MC476: A 170 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *oppB* (CD0853) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* 630 $\Delta$ *erm* genomic DNA using primers oMC1012 and oMC1076. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC477: A 150 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *oppB* (CD0853) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* 630 $\Delta$ *erm* genomic DNA using primers oMC1012 and oMC1077. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC478: A 250 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *oppB* (CD0853) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* UK1 genomic DNA using primers oMC1012 and oMC1074. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC480: A 170 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *oppB* (CD0853) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* UK1 genomic DNA using primers oMC1012 and oMC1076. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC481: A 150 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *oppB* (CD0853) operon was amplified from *C. difficile* UK1 genomic DNA using primers oMC1012 and oMC1077. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI.

pMC535: A 600 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *sinR* (CD2214) operon was generated through splicing and overlap extension PCR from *C. difficile* 630 $\Delta$ *erm* genomic DNA to generate a C to A transversion 290 bp upstream the *sinR* translational start site using primers oMC1008, oMC1009, oMC1178, and oMC1179. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI

pMC536: A 600 bp fragment containing the upstream region of the *sinR* (CD2214) operon was generated through splicing and overlap extension PCR from *C. difficile* 630 $\Delta$ *erm* genomic DNA to generate a C to A transversion 290 bp upstream the *sinR* translational start site using primers oMC1008, oMC1009, oMC1178, and oMC1179. This region was cloned into pMC358 using *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI

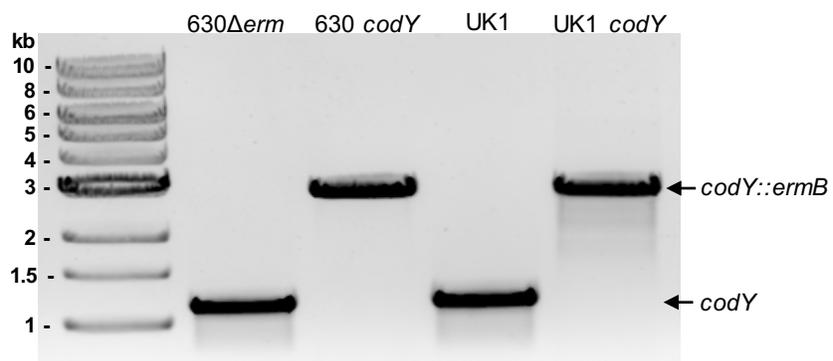
pBL18: pSMB47 was digested with *Eco*RI and *Nco*I. The ends were blunted and the plasmid was self-ligated generating pBL18.

pBL26: The *catP* gene of pMMOrf-Cat was amplified using 5'*catP*2 and ITR primers. This region was cloned into pBL18 using *Sph*I.

pMMOrf-Cat: 950 bp region containing *catP* and its promoter was amplified from pJIR1456 using 5'*catP*2 and 3'*catP*. This region was cloned into the *Sma*I site of pMMOrf.

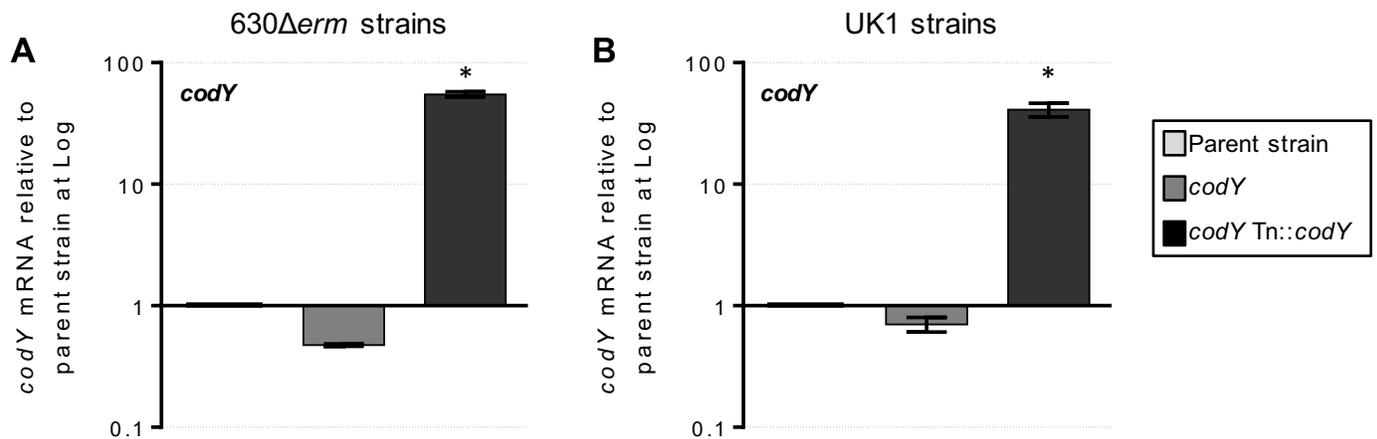
pND3: A 983 bp fragment containing the promoter and coding sequencing of *codY* was amplified from *C. difficile* JIR8094 genomic DNA using primers oLB275 and oLB276. This region was cloned into pBL26 using *Bam*HI and *Hind*III.

Figure. S2



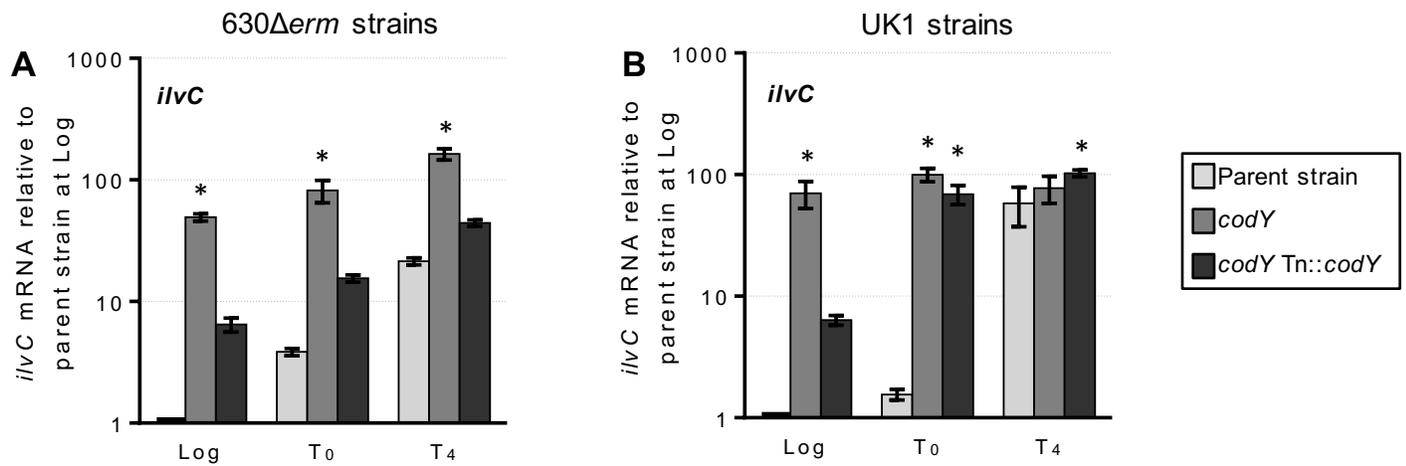
**Figure S2. Confirmation of *codY* disruption.** PCR amplification of *codY* from 630 $\Delta$ erm, MC364 (630 $\Delta$ erm *codY::ermB*), UK1, and LB-CD16 (UK1 *codY::ermB*) genomic DNA using primers oMC425/426, demonstrating insertion of the Targetron-based intron in mutants.

Figure. S3



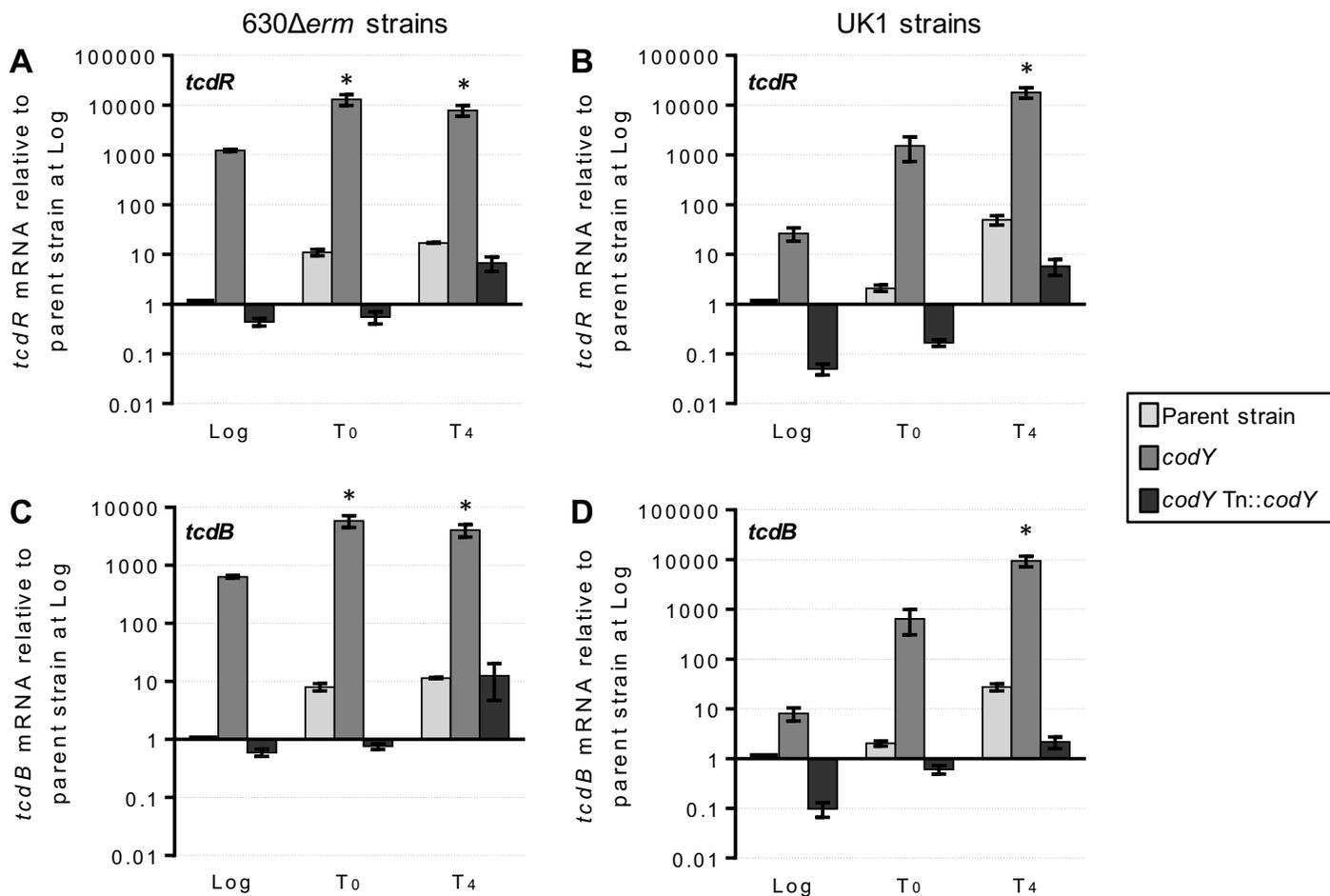
**Figure S3. Analysis of *codY* expression.** qRT-PCR expression analysis of *codY* for (A) 630Δerm, MC364 (630Δerm *codY*::*ermB*) and MC442 (630Δerm *codY* Tn::*codY*) and (B) UK1, LB-CD16 (UK1 *codY*::*ermB*), and MC443 (UK1 *codY* Tn::*codY*). Strains were grown in 70:30 liquid sporulation medium and samples for RNA isolation were taken during logarithmic growth (OD<sub>600</sub> ~0.5). The means and standard error of the means of four biological replicates are shown. A one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison test was used to compare the parent strain with the *codY* mutant or the parent strain with the respective complemented strain. \*,  $P \leq 0.05$ .

Figure. S4



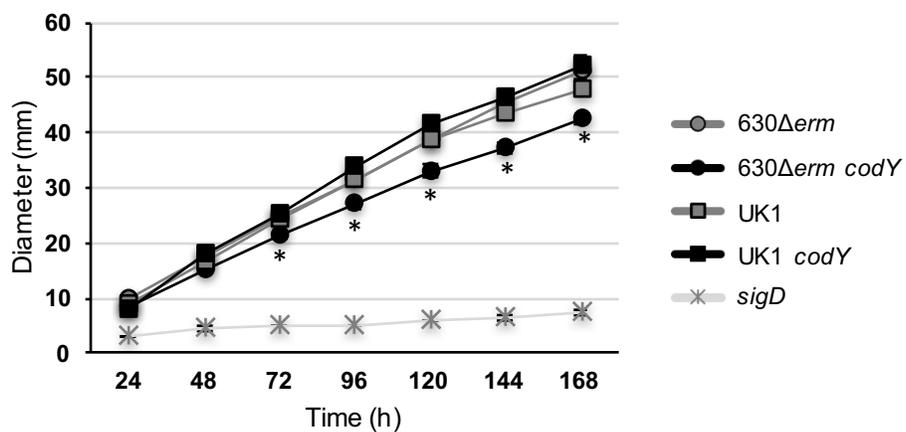
**Figure S4. Loss of CodY-dependent regulation of *ilvC*.** qRT-PCR expression analysis of *ilvC* in **A**) 630 $\Delta$ erm, MC364 (630 $\Delta$ erm *codY::ermB*), MC442 (630 $\Delta$ erm *codY Tn::codY*) and **B**) UK1, LB-CD16 (UK1 *codY::ermB*) and MC443 (UK1 *codY Tn::codY*) grown in 70:30 liquid sporulation media. Samples for RNA isolation were taken during logarithmic growth ( $OD_{600} \sim 0.5$ ), transition to stationary phase ( $T_0$ ), and four hours after the transition into stationary phase ( $T_4$ ). The means and standard error of the means of four biological replicates are shown. A two-way repeated measures ANOVA, followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison test was used to compare parent strain with the *codY* mutant or the parent strain with the respective complemented strain. \*,  $P \leq 0.05$ .

Figure. S5



**Figure S5. Expression of the toxin-specific sigma factor, *tcdR*, and toxin gene, *tcdB*, is increased in *codY* mutants.** qRT-PCR analysis of *tcdR* and *tcdB* in (A,C) 630 $\Delta$ erm, MC364 (630 $\Delta$ erm *codY*::*ermB*), MC442 (630 $\Delta$ erm *codY* Tn::*codY*) and (B,D) UK1, LB-CD16 (UK1 *codY*::*ermB*), and MC443 (UK1 *codY* Tn::*codY*) grown in 70:30 sporulation media. Samples for RNA were collected during logarithmic growth (OD<sub>600</sub> ~0.5), transition to stationary phase (T<sub>0</sub>), and four hours post the transition to stationary phase (T<sub>4</sub>). The means and standard error of the means of four biological replicates are shown. A two-way repeated measures ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison test was used to compare parent strain with the *codY* mutant or the parent strain with the respective complemented strain. \*,  $P \leq 0.05$ .

Figure. S6



**Figure S6. Motility phenotypes of *codY* mutants.** (A) Motility of 630Δ*erm*, MC364 (630 *codY*), UK1, LB-CD16 (UK1 *codY*) and the non-motile strain, *sigD* (RT1075) on the surface of one-half concentration BHI with 0.3% agar plate. The diameters of motility (mm) were measured every 24 h for a total of 168 h. The means and SEM of four biological replicates are shown. \*,  $P < 0.05$  by a two-tailed Student's *t* test.

Fig. S7

**A** *PsinR*

-600 ATTAAATTTAT TTTATAAGAT TATTACTCTA CTATAAATCT TGTATATAAC TTGTATTTAT AAGTATTTGT ATATTTATTT TTTATAA TCT AAACCTAATAT  
 -500 TATATATTTT CATTATTTT TTAATTATAA TTTTTTTAAA ATTTTATTCT AAATGCCCTTA CTTATAAAT AATTTTTTAT TTCACCTATAT ATAATTAGAT  
 -400 TTAATAAATGT TTACCTTACC AATATAAATGA TTAAACTCAA AAGTCTTATT GAAAAATTTT CTATTTACAT AAATGTTTCA ATATATAAAA TAGAAAAATTT  
 -300 TTTTAAATTTT CAAAAATATAT TCTACATATC TAAATATGTA TTACAAATAA AAATGCTATA ATTAACATAT TATTAATTCG TTTTATTTAT GTAGTAGGGC  
 A  
 -200 TATGAAATTA TGAAAAATATT TCTCTAATTA AAAAATATGAT TTATCCATAT TTGTTTATTG TAGATACAGA CTATACAAAA ATAAATAGCA CTTATTTTCAG  
 -100 TATAAAAAACA TATATAGTCT ATATTTAGAC TAAAAAAGTA TAAATAGTCT ATATAAAAAACA ACTTAAACTA TGAATATAAT CTAAAAGTGGA GGGATAATAA TTG

**B** *PoppB*

-400 ACTGTGTACA TAGTTTTAGA ATAAAGTTCT TTTAAGAGCA TGGCTATTCT AAAACAGTCA TAATTACTTT TCAATAAAAT CACCTCTTAA ATGGTTTGCA  
 -250  
 -300 TACAAACTAA TATAATATAC TTTTCTTATA TAGTCAACCT AAAATTTTAT AATTTTATAG AAAATAATGA AGAATAGAAT ATAAAAATTT TATTTTAGGT  
 C  
 -200 ATAAATAAAA TAATTTGATG AAATTTTAAAC AATTTTAAA AAGTTTGTTT ACACAGTTAA TAAATGATGC TAAAAATTAAC TCATAGATAA ATATAGAAAA  
 -170  
 -150  
 -100 TTTAATTTTG TTTAATGATA ATGGAACCAC GAAGGTTTTA ACGTTACTTT ACGTTTGCTT TTATGTGGTT TTTTTTATTG CAACAAA GGGTTGGGTT TTG

**Figure S7. The promoter region of *sinR* and *oppB*.** 600 bp DNA sequence upstream of the predicted *sinR* translational start site from the 630 genome (A). 400 bp DNA sequence upstream of the predicted *oppB* translational start site from the 630 genome (B). Sequence differences in the UK1 strain are noted above the 630 sequence. Δ denotes a deletion. Alterations made by site-directed mutagenesis are noted below the sequence. The putative translation start site is marked by a dashed underline. The previously identified CcpA (67) and CodY (32, 37) binding sites are marked by a solid underline and blue font, respectively. The evaluated promoter fusion lengths are indicated by bolded markers.