

## HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

June 9, 2022, 2:00 pm ET

### Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Hilary Babcock, Anu Malani, JoAnne Reifsnnyder, Mark Russi, Connie Steed

CDC: Mike Bell, Darian Bishop, Sydney Byrd, Mylaica Conner, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, Jamesa Hogges, Fernanda Lessa, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, Erin Stone, Matt Stuckey, Laura Wells

### Agenda

- Scoping review discussion (Erin, 10 mins)
  - Definition and goals
  - Methods
  - Brief review of themes in “Transmission by Air”
- Discussion of targeted reviews (Group, 20 mins)
  - When and how to use them
  - Questions remaining/unanswered
  - Other
- Review of notional draft (Group, 20 mins)
- Wrap up and next steps (10 mins)

### Discussion Summary

#### Scoping review discussion

Ms. Stone led a discussion on the scoping review.

- The questions in a scoping review are typically more general.
  - The goal is to get a sense of the quality and quantity of evidence.
  - The questions in a systematic literature review are more specific.
- In this scoping review, we looked at the mechanisms of transmission via the air.
  - wanted to understand how much evidence is out there.
  - found over 20,000 titles and abstracts
  - To narrow this down, the team searched only for systematic literature reviews to find the primary research used to answer these questions
  - The most cited references were pulled from these reviews
- Before moving forward with more in-depth analysis, the group will need to decide if these are the questions we want to ask.
- The questions asked were to help understand how pathogens and pathogen-laden particles get into the air, the size and general characteristics of these pathogens and particles, and the environmental factors that impact transmission.
- More targeted questions and exemplar articles will help guide the literature reviews.
  - The group can discuss questions they want to ask and articles they think will be helpful over the next couple of meetings.

#### Review of notional draft

The Workgroup discussed the notional draft and any targeted questions they may be thinking about.

- A member proposed starting with the notion that any disease transmitted through the air is more likely to be transmitted if you are closer to the infected individual and if you spend more time with the individual.
  - Each disease has a particular “signature” that falls along a curve, but all spread more readily based on how close you are to the source and how much time is spent with the source.
- There was agreement that there is not a clear dichotomy, but there is an understanding of how things transmit.
- Touching or touch are good words to use.
- The visualization of the transmission methods will be important for people to understand.
- Percutaneous may belong with Standard Precautions or Core Practices, but there are parts of “touching” that need to be discussed, such as what we mean by “intact skin.”
- There’s a need to clarify the purpose of PPE – to prevent spread vs. protecting the person wearing it.
- People have certain defenses, like intact skin and immunity, that increase the risk of infection when compromised.
- If we introduce a short vs. long-distance division, we must defend it (e.g., what does long distance mean?).
- The group discussed distance as a continuum vs. a hard line and how to describe that.
- Severity of outcome of different diseases is also on a curve and needs to be addressed.
- The public and healthcare providers became frustrated with the changing guidance during covid, so the 2 x 2 table will hopefully be a tool to show why an emerging pathogen is treated one way at first, then a different way as we learn more, gain immunity, have a vaccine, etc.

#### Next Steps

- The group will review the notional draft and send comments and areas where a targeted review would be helpful.

The call adjourned at 2:53 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for June 23, 2022, at 2:00 pm ET.