

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

July 21, 2022, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Hilary Babcock, Elaine Dekker, Anu Malani, Mark Russi, Connie Steed

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Mylaica Conner, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, Jamesa Hogges, Lessa, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Erin Stone, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Feedback for updated Section A (notional draft)
- Overview of scoping review for possible distance for delineation of precautions
- Discussion respiratory PPE section, with a focus on thought questions
- Potential targeted review questions

Discussion Summary

Feedback for updated Section A (notional draft)

Dr. Lin led a discussion on the updated Section A.

- Transmission is grouped into routes by air and routes by touch.
- A member commented on the first sentence in the last paragraph (line 69).
 - Does “scientific knowledge based on observation” need to be better defined?
 - A member agreed it needs to be clear how decisions are being made, such as by available research, experience and observation, epidemiologic research, and other types of research.
 - Saying “uncertainty” implies the group is uncertain, so this wording needs to reflect the group is being very deliberate about how decisions are being made.
- It was suggested line 66 should say water systems can amplify and then be more specific about the water system's components (e.g., the cooling towers, the faucets, the shower head, etc.)
- It was recommended the word “significant” be removed from line 41.
- It was pointed out it is essential not to use very concrete words, such as “all,” “none,” “never,” etc.
 - Also, avoid “should,” “would,” and “will.”
- The last paragraph could start with, “Pathways of pathogen transmission and effectiveness of individual intervention are incompletely characterized, particularly with newer pathogens,” and drop the comparison of different kinds of scientific research.
- In line 35, the group agreed it needs to be clear that this refers to the inhalation of infectious particles, not just into the lungs, but into other areas of the respiratory tract.
 - The group agreed line 36 should say “via inhalation and deposition along the respiratory tract.”

Overview of scoping review for possible distance for delineation of precautions

Ms. Stone discussed the scoping summary of narrative reviews reporting distances of aerosol particle dispersal.

- In these narrative reviews, particle size seems to be the most important factor for transmission.
- The general findings are that there is no distance where a near versus far range can be established.
- A comment was made that this supports the idea of a continuum of particle spread and that there is no explicit cutoff.
- This scoping review is not pathogen-specific; pathogen-specific reviews can be done when needed.

- The group discussed the inclusion of animal data studies and agreed it might be good to include or acknowledge animal data. However, studies specific to transmission in the healthcare setting are optimal.

Discussion respiratory PPE section, with a focus on thought questions

The group discussed the 'efficacy of respiratory PPE' section of the respiratory protection outline.

- It was asked if the non-fit-tested N95/KN95 respirator heading should be addressed under another heading within this section.
 - A member pointed out that OSHA regulation requires a NIOSH-approved respirator, so the fit testing requirement may not change.
- A suggestion was made to include proportion of the population at risk, impact on health systems, the availability of effective diagnosis and treatment, and the availability of effective vaccines under the factors other than transmission heading.
- Under the re-use and extended use heading, it's important to specify that this is during routine times for conventional use vs. during crisis and contingency periods.

Potential targeted review questions

Workgroup members discussed possible targeted literature review key questions on masks.

- When do you need a fitted respirator vs. a well-fitting face mask?
- Could look at studies comparing no mask, a loose-fitting mask, and a respirator.
- Are medical/surgical masks as effective as N95 respirators in preventing infection among healthcare personnel caring for patients with respiratory viral infections?

Next Steps

- The group will continue to add comments and suggestions to the Section A draft to be discussed at the next meeting.
- The respiratory PPE section will continue to be fleshed out between now and the next meeting.
- A targeted question for a literature review will be finalized via email.

The call adjourned at 3:03 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for August 4, 2022, at 2:00 pm ET.