

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

September 1, 2022, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Anu Malani, JoAnne Reifsnyder, Mark Russi, Connie Steed, Julie Trivedi

CDC: Mike Bell, Darian Bishop, Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Mylaica Conner, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, Jamesa Hogges, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, Erin Stone, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Summary of the discussion at the HICPAC meeting on 8/23
- Review of draft “Components of Isolation” table
 - New discussion of rows 6-8
 - Revisit rows 1-5
- Finalize feedback on Targeted Review Question #2 on eye protection

Discussion Summary

Summary of the discussion at the HICPAC meeting on 8/23

Dr. Lin gave an update on the workgroup presentation at HICPAC.

- The purpose of this workgroup was reiterated, and progress to this point was summarized.
 - Introduced risk assessment to assigning categories of PPE
 - Reviewed section A and the basic categorization of transmission by air and transmission by contact.
 - Described the concept of a continuum of respiratory aerosols spread over distance and time and not having a dichotomous cutoff.
 - Reviewed the outline of Section B and informed that Section C is in progress.
- The Q&A gave positive feedback.
 - Seasonal flu could rise to a higher level of PPE, but the goal is to risk assess and not apply Covid precautions across all respiratory pathogens.
- Dr. Bell spoke about the importance of the section that will be included on source control.

Review of draft “Components of Isolation” table

Dr. Wright led a discussion on rows 6-9, and the group revisited rows 1-5.

- A member asked how this table would fit into the overall document.
 - It potentially could be a bridge from the first section into this section.
 - A member commented that it could help explain the rationale for the new transmission-based precautions and how they will apply to individual organisms.
 - As the content is being developed, the format for how it will be laid out online may change.
- The group discussed where sharps injuries would fit into the framework.
 - It was suggested it could be added as line 10 because it is associated with engineering controls (line 9)
- Row 6
 - The group discussed the inclusion of cloth masks.
 - Members commented that this should be only for pediatrics when other masks are not tolerated.

- For source control, a cloth mask could be used only when a well-fitted surgical mask is not tolerated or not available (due to supply chain issues, etc.).
- Someone could forget to switch masks when transitioning from source control to personal protection.
- Other issues discussed included not knowing the quality, when it has been laundered, etc.
- Row 7
 - Recommendations such as negative pressure room vs. AIIR can be determined later once the function/intent is more defined.
- Row 8
 - No comments were added.
- Row 9
 - The group discussed if examples are needed to provide clear guidance.
 - The message of this segment is to address the reason or intent behind the action, and the next part (Appendix A update) will have more detail and a consistent outline for each section (e.g., administrative, PPE, engineering controls).
 - A comment was made that the table could be a tool to guide HCP through risk assessment, but it should be made clear that it is not all-inclusive; it provides guidance and examples.
- Review of rows 1 – 5
 - Should row 1 say gloves vs. non-sterile gloves?
 - This row is meant to address the use and removal of non-sterile gloves, so sterile gloves may need to be separate.
 - Sterile gloves could be added in row 2 (preventing movement of pathogens).
- The group decided that row 4 needs to say pathogens that spread by air vs. respiratory pathogens.
- Row 4 is pathogens associated with a high risk of morbidity and mortality, and row 5 is pathogens with a lower risk.
- Options for preventing transmission in different settings can be addressed once these first parts are complete.

Finalize feedback on Targeted Review Question #2 on eye protection

- A member asked if compliance can be considered when looking at studies.

Next Steps

- Ideas for transmission-based precautions categories will be brought to the group for discussion at the next meeting.

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

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for September 15, 2022, at 2:00 pm ET.