

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

October 13, 2022, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

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

CDC: 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

- Recap of prior meeting
- Discussion about respiratory transmission-based precautions
- Discussion about contact precautions
- Next Steps

Discussion Summary

Discussion about respiratory transmission-based precautions

After giving a recap of the previous meeting, Dr. Lin led a conversation on the question posed to the workgroup before the meeting: Based on discussions to date, what would be your minimum recommendation for (a) respiratory protection [choose among standard precautions vs. med/surg facemask vs. ASTM Performance Plus facemask vs. N95 respirator], and (b) eye protection [standard precautions vs. mandatory] for patients diagnosed with Seasonal coronavirus, Seasonal influenza, and Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19.

- HB:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: med/surg and eye protection
 - Seasonal influenza: med/surg and eye protection
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: N95 and eye protection in the initial phase; struggle with the transition phase of when there's enough information to downgrade to a well-fitting face mask
- ED:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: med/surg and no eye protection
 - Seasonal influenza: med/surg and eye protection per standard precautions (SP)
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: respirator and eye protection; agree that there needs to be guidance on when to downgrade
- ML:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: med/surg and eye protection per SP
 - Seasonal influenza: med/surg and eye protection per SP
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: N95 and mandatory eye protection
- AM:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: med/surg and eye protection per SP
 - Seasonal influenza: med/surg and eye protection per SP
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: N95 and mandatory eye protection, with guidance on when to downgrade
 - Okay with adding eye protection being worn voluntarily, but not required except per SP
 - Compliance is important to consider
- It was clarified that eye protection per SP means during an AGP or if splashes and sprays are anticipated.

- MR:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: well-fitting med/surg or ASTM and eye protection per SP
 - Seasonal influenza: well-fitting med/surg or ASTM and eye protection per SP
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: N95 and mandatory eye protection
 - As we get more information on the ASTM masks, they may be a good option to downgrade to when able and potentially to downgrade to eye protection per SP
- CS:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: well-fitting med/surg and eye protection per SP
 - Seasonal influenza: well-fitting med/surg and eye protection per SP
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: N95 and mandatory eye protection
 - Agree there needs to be a method of when to back down and agree the ASTM mask would be a good option once we have more information
- JT:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: med/surg and eye protection per SP
 - Seasonal influenza: med/surg and eye protection
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: N95 and mandatory eye protection with the ability to scale down based on data
- The group discussed if there is data about the spread of seasonal flu via transmission through the eyes.
 - A member knew of transmission of avian flu through eyes but not seasonal flu.
 - Another member commented that if a patient is admitted with a respiratory virus coughing and sneezing, that warrants eye protection per SP.
 - Once a HCW goes in the room and sees the patient is coughing and sneezing, it's difficult/too late to go back out and get eye protection.
- SW:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: med/surg and eye protection
 - Seasonal influenza: med/surg and eye protection
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: N95 (and potentially ASTM when able to downgrade) and eye protection
- DY:
 - Seasonal coronavirus: med/surg and eye protection
 - Seasonal influenza: med/surg and eye protection
 - Pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID-19: N95 and eye protection
- The group overall was in consensus about pandemic influenza/pandemic COVID recommendations, with the caveat that there be guidance on when to transition to a non-pandemic recommendation.
- The group was in agreement on masks for seasonal coronavirus and seasonal flu, but there was not a consensus on eye protection in terms of making it mandatory vs. per SP.
- It was noted that it would be a change to recommend med/surg masks and ASTM masks (which need more research and approvals) for respiratory protection.
 - A member commented that isolation masks have been used for protection against influenza and other respiratory viruses for decades.
- Members commented on policies at their facilities that recommend using eye protection with patients unable to comply with personal hygiene (e.g., children, behavioral health, elderly dementia patients).
- Ms. Stone gave an update on the eye protection literature review and will provide preliminary findings at the next meeting.

- Dr. Lin and Dr. Wright led a discussion on the ASTM masks.
 - Both ordered masks to try.
 - The group discussed fit, cost, the different levels, and the testing necessary for them to be approved for fluid resistance and respiratory protection.

Discussion on contact precautions

The group spent a few minutes at the end of the meeting reviewing contact precautions.

- There is a row in the table for contact precautions, and the group agrees on an additional row for enhanced barrier precautions
 - Dr. Lin reviewed enhanced barrier precautions and their use in LTC facilities.
 - A member commented on the challenges faced when implementing these precautions.
 - The group agreed it would be valuable to hear feedback from those with LTC facility experience.

Next Steps

The discussion about contact and enhanced barrier precautions will continue at the next meeting, along with eye protection.

The call adjourned at 3:01 pm with no additional comments or questions.
The next Workgroup call is scheduled for October 27, 2022, at 2 pm ET.