**HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call**
October 27, 2:00 pm ET

**Participants**
Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Hilary Babcock, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Anu Malani, JoAnne Reifsnyder, Mark Russi, Connie Steed, Julie Trivedi, Deborah Yokoe
CDC: Mike Bell, Darian Bishop, Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, Erin Stone, Matt Stuckey, David Weissman, Laura Wells

**Agenda**
- Brief recap from 10/13 meeting
- Presentation and discussion on targeted reviews
  - Mask and COVID summary
  - Eye protection
  - Discussion
- Review/finalize respiratory transmission section
- Nov 3 prep

**Discussion Summary**
<u>Presentation and discussion on targeted reviews</u>
Dr. Wright gave a recap of the last meeting, and then the OGER team presented initial findings from the targeted literature reviews.

- Ms. Okasako-Schmucker presented the update on the mask targeted review.
  - The previous results included influenza, influenza-like illness, and acute respiratory illness, and the current data includes COVID and some TB.
  - Overall, no difference in effectiveness was seen between surgical masks and N95s
    - When the pathogens were stratified, there was still no difference for influenza.
    - However, there was evidence that N95s were more effective than surgical masks in preventing the transmission of SARS-CoV-2.
    - No difference in effectiveness was found for ILI, and there was no conclusive evidence for Acute Respiratory Illness.
  - A member asked if studies examined whether fit testing had been done for those wearing N95s.
    - Most studies included fit-testing, but the ones that evaluated fit-tested vs. non-fit-tested did not see a difference.
  - The group reviewed and discussed how the data was analyzed and how to utilize this data to best inform decision-making.
  - A member asked if extended use/reuse of N95s was included in the review.
    - That was not in the question being asked, so not included, but a review on the proper use of respirators could be conducted.
    - A member suggested it may be beneficial to look at the number of patients being cared for over what timeframe, as caring for a higher number of patients and moving quickly from one patient to the next could increase risk of exposure.
  - The group discussed the difficulty of determining community vs. occupational exposure and that many occupational exposures were related to the breakroom and carpooling vs. patient care.
- Ms. So presented results on the eye protection targeted review.
  - Overall, the use of eye protection is associated with a decrease in SARS-CoV-2 infection among healthcare workers.

- There were some confounding factors, such as the implementation of state-mandated facemask use, and other variables, such as geographic location and whether a covid surge was happing at the time the study was conducted, whether masks were worn in addition to eye protection, whether the patient was masked, etc.
- This search looked for studies on all respiratory pathogens, but most that were found focused on SARS-CoV-2
- Members commented on the need for general guidance that is helpful across pathogens and in various settings and discussed if guidance should be the same for covid vs. other respiratory pathogens.

Review/finalize respiratory transmission section

The group reviewed and discussed the respiratory pathogen precautions table.

- The labels have been removed for now.
- Across categories, the group agreed on masks but not eye protection.
  - It was suggested that the larger HICPAC group could be asked to give input at the HICPAC meeting.
- It was suggested, and the group agreed, to flip rows 2 and 3 to be more intuitive.
- The group discussed the performance plus masks and how more information and data should be available soon.
  - It was suggested that the group consider how and where to incorporate these masks into the recommendations once they are approved as medical devices.
- A member posted a link in the chat and suggested eye protection should be used for agents with known ocular tropism like H7 influenza: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1473309918301026
  - The group agreed that this should be addressed in the new appendix A section, and this table could have an asterisk in the first row to "strongly consider" or "there are indications that eye protection should be worn" during high prevalence seasons, etc.

Nov 3 prep

- The group agreed on the framework being presented at the HICPAC meeting.
- Contact precautions will be discussed more at the next workgroup meeting.
  - HICPAC will be informed that contact precautions are still in progress.

The call adjourned at 3:03 pm with no additional comments or questions.
The next Workgroup call is scheduled for November 17, 2022, at 2 pm ET.