

## HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

January 19, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

### Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Hilary Babcock, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Mark Russi, Connie Steed, Julie Trivedi, Deborah Yokoe

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, David Kuhar, Fernanda Lessa, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, Matt Stuckey, David Weissman, Laura Wells

### Agenda

- Recap
- Targeted review update (masks) – Devon
- Transmission by air – Discuss eye protection for seasonal respiratory viruses
- Naming of transmission by air categories

### Discussion Summary

#### Targeted review update (masks)

After Dr. Lin gave a recap of the previous meeting, the group heard an update from Ms. Okasako-Schmucker on the masks targeted review.

- Evidence suggests no difference in effectiveness between N95 and surgical masks for lab-confirmed viral respiratory infections.
  - Results remained the same after adding in additional studies.
- Results suggest N95 masks are more effective than surgical masks for lab-confirmed bacterial colonization.
  - No new studies were added.
- These results and an analysis of 29 studies reporting on adverse events can be found in the box.com account [here](#).
- Members commented on their experiences working in their facilities during the pandemic and using surgical masks when they ran out of N95s.
  - They did not see a difference in the effectiveness of preventing transmission.
  - Another member commented that they saw transmission in some situations, but it was rare.
  - It was suggested that an editorial that combines the experiences of multiple leaders in the field who had similar experiences would be beneficial.
- A comment was made that the efficacy of N95s is superior to surgical masks, and N95s will filter out particles better when fitted properly.
- NIOSH has done studies looking at the effectiveness of N95s as source control, and a tight-fitting respirator does work better for source control than a surgical mask or cloth mask.

#### Transmission by air – Discuss eye protection for seasonal respiratory viruses

Dr. Lin reviewed the proposed table for transmission by air.

- The group discussed when it would make sense to use contact precautions vs. droplet precautions vs. both.
- The group agreed that certain patient populations require different precautions because they cannot contain or confine bodily secretions/fluids (e.g., pediatric, elderly, people with disabilities).
- Members discussed how the table should recommend baseline precautions for each row, then additional precautions can be added in certain situations.

- It was suggested there could be modifier categories based on setting, patient's age, pathogen, etc.
- Members agreed that the guidance on when to add a modifier like eye protection needs to be simple and straightforward.
- It was suggested that a column could be added for contact precautions as a parallel add-on to eye protection.

#### Next Steps

Suggestions for added columns and/or modifier categories will be sent to the group for feedback.

The call adjourned at 3:02 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for February 2, 2023, at 2 pm ET.