

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

February 2, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

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

CDC: Mike Bell, Darian Bishop, Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, Fernanda Lessa, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, Erin Stone, Matt Stuckey, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Recap of last meeting
- Discussion of updated Transmission by Air table
 - TBD-I (row 1) eye protection
 - Ventilation
 - Contact Precautions
- Naming of Transmission by Air categories
- Wrap up

Discussion Summary

Discussion of updated Transmission by Air table

Dr. Wright summarized the last meeting and then led a conversation on the Transmission by Air table.

- A row for contact precautions was added to the table for the discussion, but it may be removed later.
- The group discussed the poll results for TBD-I (row 1) eye protection options.
 - 10 votes for option 1: Eye protection is not required for routine care of patients with endemic or lower risk respiratory viruses, with use: (a) as recommended per standard precautions, and (b) for routine patient care based on local risk assessment (e.g., patient age, local transmission).
 - 1 vote for option 2: Eye protection is required for routine care of all patients with respiratory infections.
- Members agreed on option #1 for now with the caveat that it is clearly defined.
 - #1 provides more flexibility.
 - There may not be enough evidence to support #2.
- The group discussed the ventilation (AIIR) column.
 - Currently, no special ventilation is needed in the first two rows, but it is required in the third row for pathogens like tuberculosis and measles.
 - A comment was made that ventilation in row two could be situational such as with certain aerosol-generating procedures. In some situations, a negative pressure room will suffice, vs. an Airborne Infection Isolation Room.
 - A member expressed that trying to make a distinction between a negative pressure room and an AIIR room might be challenging.
 - Concern was expressed about the confusion over defining which procedures are aerosol-generating.
 - A member spoke about having the flexibility to add or remove ventilation in row TBD-II as more knowledge is gained about novel viruses.
 - Members agreed on “no” for the ventilation column in row TBD-II, but with an asterisk that it can be added in certain situations.

- It was suggested that AGPs be addressed in the narrative portion of the guideline and not in this table.
- Members discussed the column for contact precautions and agreed to remove it from this table and provide an explanation in the rationale column about precautions that can be added for certain situations or pathogens.

Naming of Transmission by Air categories

Members discussed ideas for category names.

- Respiratory protection 1, 2, and 3
 - Members expressed concern that ordinal numbers would be perceived as levels of severity.
 - There was also concern about using the word respiratory.
- Short-range predominant, long-range capable, range inadequately determined (or not yet determined)
- The group discussed if the names need to describe the type of transmission or if they could be more generic as long as they are clearly defined.
- A member spoke about the color coding and pictures used on signs in their facility.
 - Red is high risk, yellow is low level, and contact is blue
- A member suggested adding a color to Air Transmission: “Air Transmission _____”
 - Using other colors besides red, yellow, and green
 - This could be a problem for people who are color blind.
- Other ideas:
 - Sapphire, ruby, emerald
 - Shapes – triangle, square, circle
 - Airway A, B, C
 - Silver, gold, platinum
 - L, M, N
 - “Airway Precaution C” for close-range pattern; “Airway Precaution L” for long-range pattern; and “Airway Precaution N” for novel/pandemic

The call adjourned at 3:05 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for February 16, 2023, at 2 pm ET.