

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

March 30, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

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

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Recap of prior meeting
- Standard Precautions discussion – What messages need to be in the updated guideline?
- Revisit ‘Part B’ Outline. Potential questions:
 - Hand hygiene – Current outline includes ‘five moments.’ What will the messaging be within this guideline?
 - Universal masking to prevent transmission of respiratory viruses during respiratory viral season – Where does that belong in this guidance, if at all?
 - Facemasks – How to best communicate appropriate fit? Re-use and extended use – does that belong here?
 - Ventilation – Do we need to rename AIR? Does detailed air handling information belong in this guideline or elsewhere?

Discussion Summary

Recap of prior meeting

- A final decision was not made on the naming, so the group can continue to discuss what might fit best as the writing progresses.

Standard Precautions (SP) discussion – What messages need to be in the updated guideline?

Dr. Lin led a discussion on Standard Precautions.

- The group discussed maintaining an archival copy of the 2007 content and references.
 - Members expressed concern about referencing the 2007 document but agreed it might be beneficial to archive some of the content and references and that outdated content could be redacted.
 - A literature review could be conducted to compile a list of the 2007 references that are still relevant and supporting evidence that has come out more recently.
- Dr. Lin asked the group what topics within SP are important to discuss as the writing begins:
 - 2007 lists non-intact skin, among other things, as a possible source for infectious agents, but in more recent years with MDROs and C. Auris, intact skin has also been shown to be a risk.
 - Defining what is considered artificial nails is difficult.
 - Universal masking/source control masking is in Core Practices. Should it also be addressed in SP?
 - There’s a pre-diagnostic period that falls in between SP and transmission precautions.
 - This could be addressed in Appendix A.

Revisit ‘Part B’ Outline. Potential questions:

- Hand hygiene – Current outline includes ‘five moments.’ What will the messaging be within this guideline?

- This document can refer to current hand hygiene guidance, which can be updated separately if necessary.
- A member also suggested referring to the recently published SHEA/IDSA/APIC hand hygiene section of the Compendium.
- Universal masking to prevent transmission of respiratory viruses during respiratory viral season – Where does that belong in this guidance, if at all?
 - Members agreed this would require more discussion. It is in Core Practices, but some felt it should also be addressed in SP.
 - A member expressed concern that Core Practices is less well-known than SP.
 - CDC could do an educational campaign highlighting these guidelines ahead of the respiratory viral season.
- Facemasks – How to best communicate appropriate fit? Re-use and extended use – does that belong here?
 - The group agreed that language about appropriate use and fit for the different types of masks should be included here (e.g., medical/surgical masks, ASTM, N95)
 - Covering the nose and mouth and not leaving any large gaps was suggested as a definition for a well-fitting face mask.
- Patient Placement – The group discussed cohorting patients and agreed it needs more clarification.
 - The group agreed there needs to be more education on when it is acceptable to cohort patients and how to minimize the risk of transmission.
 - A member commented that guidance on how to room people in a nursing home would be helpful.
- Ventilation – Do we need to rename AIIR? Does detailed air handling information belong in this guideline or elsewhere?
 - A segment could be added to the Environmental Infection Control Guideline.
 - The airborne infection isolation piece and baseline expectations for indoor air quality in healthcare facilities should remain here.

Next Steps

- There will be three more meetings before the HICPAC meeting (the April 13th meeting is canceled due to the SHEA Spring Conference).
- A draft of Part I will be presented at the June HICPAC meeting, which is June 8th, 9 am – 5 pm ET, and June 9th, 9 am – 12 pm ET.

The call adjourned at 3:00 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for May 4, 2023, at 2 pm ET.