

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

May 4, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

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

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, Erin Stone, Matt Stuckey, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Review of Isolation Precautions Part I draft
 - Framing of draft (Mike B)
 - Group discussion of draft

Discussion Summary

Review of Isolations Precautions Part I draft

Dr. Lin reviewed the draft with the workgroup.

- This is an initial draft, so wordsmithing and formatting will evolve over time.
 - Members stressed the importance of how content is phrased and being clear about what is recommendation vs. implementation vs. rationale.
- A member asked if CDC is coordinating with international groups, such as WHO.
 - CDC has engaged with WHO and others but does not need to be in lockstep with them.
- A member asked if there is content in Part B that departs from current CDC guidance.
 - Fingernail hygiene has not been captured, so that needs to be thought through.
 - Sections from the old document we are not moving forward with will be tracked and maintained elsewhere.
 - Some of this content will be in Appendix A
 - The part of Appendix A that states “do not wear a mask for isolation” needs to be updated.
- A member asked if the source control section should include recommendations to wear a mask during certain procedures.
 - This is in Standard Precautions.
 - Some members felt it should be in this section and SP, but others thought it should not be in multiple places.
- A member asked who the target audience for this document is.
 - This is intended to be a document for how things are transmitted; it will inform our fields of infection control and needs to map back to something that says because this is what we expect is happening, this is what you need to do.
 - Infection prevention departments will use this to build their unique facility precautions.
- A member asked for clarification on the reference to personal and environmental hygiene in part B.
 - This is intended to highlight a duality of importance to hand hygiene - you’re protecting yourself and the surfaces you touch.
- The group discussed including performance plus masks in this document.
 - It was decided previously not to include this until there is more information and availability. Still, it can be added if the group feels strongly and wants to discuss this further.
 - A member suggested adding, "New technologies around respiratory protection are currently in development."

- A member commented on defining a well-fitted face mask as covering the nose and mouth, fitting next to the skin with no large gaps.
 - It was suggested that the text describe the characteristics of a well-fitted mask and highlight that it's not one size fits all.
 - Members agreed that the description of a well-fitted mask should include that it does not necessarily require modifications.
- Members agreed they like masks and respirators in a section together vs. having two separate sections.
- Members asked about the section on air handling and unlinking N95 respirators and AIIRs.
 - This will be in the next part of the draft, which will be sent to the group after an internal CDC review.
 - The Environmental Infection Control Guideline will be updated after Appendix A and will go into more detail.
- The group discussed the syndromic piece and discontinuation of isolation.
 - We want to be thoughtful about what this will look like.
 - A member offered to share a document her facility created for infection preventionist with the group.
- A member commented that useful information about how to test to end isolation would be helpful and that you can't always rely on testing because it can be inaccurate.
- A member asked that the management of visitors section not be removed and said she would review the 2007 document and send the content she feels is important to include.
- The group discussed reuse of PPE and the difference between extended use for source control vs. reuse.
 - The group agreed that medical waste is a problem but also agreed that HCP should not put on contaminated PPE, so reuse should not be encouraged.

Next Steps

The group was asked to add comments and edits to the draft before the next meeting.

The call adjourned at 3:01 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for May 11, 2023, at 2 pm ET.