

## HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

August 31, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

### Participants

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

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Marie de Perio, Alex Kallen, Fernanda Lessa, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Erin Stone, Matt Stuckey, David Weissman, Laura Wells

### Agenda

- Public HICPAC meeting (8/22) debrief
- Workgroup/NIOSH meeting (8/17) debrief
- Guideline – Discussion about new recommendation-based format and how to incorporate evidence
- Standard Precautions

### Discussion Summary

#### Public HICPAC meeting (8/22) debrief

- The Committee and others were in support of the proposed language for Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP).
- There was also a discussion on and support for defining a safe zone as designated bed space vs. entry into the patient's room in order to expand to other settings.
- The history of Standard Precautions was reviewed at the meeting, and the Committee was asked if anything should be changed.
  - Most were concerned about not losing any elements of Standard Precautions.
  - A member noted that Core Practices will be the primary home for Standard Precaution moving forward and not the updated Isolation Guideline.

#### Workgroup/NIOSH meeting (8/17) debrief

- A workgroup (WG) member asked for clarification on whether ventilation would be in this update or if this update would point to that topic within the Environmental Guidelines as previously discussed.
  - This update will link to the environmental guidelines, but members agreed with the comments from NIOSH that some clarifying information could be added to this update.
  - The NIOSH attendees were concerned about the discussions around renaming Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIR) and felt that was not in the purview of this update.
  - WG members agreed it may cause confusion to change the name but also discussed adding some clarifying language when referring to AIIR, such as “for containment of air in the space.”
  - A comment was made that people who manage Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) infrastructure will also refer to this, so the information might need to go beyond what front-line users alone would want.
- The group discussed being thoughtful about communicating the evidence that will support updated recommendations.
  - WG members agreed there needs to be clarification that the literature review shouldn't be over-interpreted to mean that we equate medical/surgical masks with N95 respirators.
  - When evidence reviews and tables are presented, the group agreed more context needs to be given to avoid future confusion.

- There needs to be more clarification that Part II will be an update of Appendix A and will go pathogen by pathogen.
- The group plans to continue to consult with NIOSH as needed to help identify what needs to stay in this update and what needs to be linked to other guidelines.

#### Guideline – Discussion about new recommendation-based format and how to incorporate evidence

- The group discussed formatting the document and pulling recommendations into clearly defined recommendation sections.
  - The proposed format will have short narrative sections following the recommendation sections.
- The group agreed with the proposed format.
- The group discussed how evidence will be presented to support new recommendations.
  - Members discussed the HICPAC Categorization Scheme ([Update to the Recommendation Categorization Scheme | HICPAC | CDC](#)).

#### Standard Precautions

- Changing the name of Standard Precautions was discussed at the August HICPAC meeting; in general, Committee members did not favor changing the name.

The call adjourned at 3:02 pm with no additional comments or questions.  
The next Workgroup call is scheduled for September 14, 2023, at 2 pm ET.