

## HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

September 14, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

### Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Michael Lin, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Anu Malani, Mark Russi, Julie Trivedi

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

### Agenda

- Recap of prior meeting
- Overview re-formatted guideline
- Review 'Special Situations' section
- Line-by-line review of specific recommendations

### Discussion Summary

#### Overview re-formatted guideline

After recapping the prior meeting, Dr. Lin reviewed the format of the current working document, which is not complete.

- The goal is to distribute the draft to the workgroup (WG) two weeks before the November meeting and to the HICPAC Committee by 10/26.
- A few updates to the current document in response to feedback:
  - Approach to Transmission-Based Precaution Recommendations is being added to section A.
  - The hierarchy of controls is being expanded upon in the overview of section B.
  - The text has been separated into recommendations and narrative for each section/subsection.
  - An overview is being added to section C.
    - Language was adapted from the 2007 guideline.
  - The last column of example pathogens is being removed from the tables.
    - Pathogen-specific precautions will be in Part II (update of Appendix A).

#### Review 'Special Situations' section

- The Special Situations section is being edited based on feedback from the workgroup and invited experts.
  - Examples are being removed.
  - A WG member asked if more clarity could be given on what is an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) and what is not.
  - A WG member added that there is a lot of expert opinion on defining AGPs but not much evidence, so it is difficult to compile a definitive list.
  - A WG member suggested an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) may be recommended for some pathogens that will be in the Novel Air precautions categories during AGPs, though pathogen-specific recommendations are not included in this guideline.

#### Line-by-line review of specific recommendations for input

- Recommendation about providing PPE at or near likely points of use.
  - This could be difficult to implement, especially in nursing homes.
  - A WG member spoke about situations where there is a limited supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and what to do in that situation.

- Another WG member agreed something should be said about reuse, supply restraint, and medical waste.
- WG members agreed it's important, and it was suggested to put a link in the narrative to the crisis standards and reuse document on the NIOSH website.
- Gloves recommendation - should HCP perform hand hygiene specifically before reaching into a box of gloves?
  - A WG member expressed that the hand hygiene guideline might cover this – the recommendation is to perform hand hygiene before donning gloves.
  - Another WG member thought it would be good to leave it in to emphasize the point.
  - WG members agreed there is benefit to keeping it in.
- Gloves recommendation - extended use of gloves should not be used in place of hand hygiene.
  - The WG agreed that extended glove use needs to be defined.
- Gloves recommendations - gloves should be removed and discarded immediately after performing the task for which they are worn, and gloves should be used for a single task on one patient.
  - A WG member suggested these recommendations could be streamlined if the narrative defines extended use.
  - A WG member said “extended use” is not defined in the hand hygiene guideline.
  - A WG member suggested there may be a way to combine these recommendations: Gloves should only be used for a single task on a patient and discarded immediately after completing the task or if torn or soiled.
- Gown recommendation - gowns should be worn to cover the individual's clothing with all fasteners secured.
  - This type of recommendation is not in other guidelines, but it is in the CDC donning sequence to fasten in back of neck and waist.
- Masks recommendation - masks should not be reused.
  - The intent is that a mask should not be worn out of the room if the patient has a transmissible pathogen. Source control is different in that extended use is common.
  - WG members suggested this distinction should be better defined here or in the source control section.
  - A WG member suggested changing well-fitted to well-fitting because well-fitted implies they were fit tested.
  - There is an exception for extended use as source control and continuous use, as long as the patient is not on Transmission-Based Precautions, and it is not moist or soiled.
  - Possible wording for source control: Staff who wear a mask for source control may do so continuously for care/room entry of sequential patients until removed, as long as the mask does not become contaminated (by splash or spray), and the patient is not on transmission-based precautions.
- Contact Precautions - what to do with unopened supplies brought into the room of a person on Contact Precautions? If stored in a closed cabinet, does this change what you do with unused supplies? This recommendation is not in the current guideline (2007).
  - WG members felt this could be misinterpreted and needs to be reworded.
- Transport of Patients - if on novel air precautions, what is the process for transporting these patients in the facility – should it be done in consultation with Infection Prevention?
  - A WG member felt it was not practical or necessary to recommend consultation with a facility Infection Preventionist for every intra-facility transport requiring Extended Air Precautions, and that such situations could be done safely using a standardized facility policy.

- WG members agreed to remove the consultation part and retain planning the route to minimize potential exposure.

Next Steps

Based on today's discussion, the co-chairs will make edits and send a draft to the WG for further review and feedback.

The call adjourned at 3:00 pm with no additional comments or questions.  
The next Workgroup call is scheduled for September 28, 2023, at 2 pm ET.

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Sharon Wright, MD, MPH  
Workgroup co-chair

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Mike Lin, MD, MPH  
Workgroup co-chair