

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

September 28, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Elaine Dekker, Anu Malani, JoAnne Reifsnyder, Mark Russi, Connie Steed, Deborah Yokoe

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, Alex Kallen, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, Erin Stone, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Presentation of updated evidence review
- How to incorporate evidence in guideline
- How to handle Appendix A/Part 2

Discussion Summary

Presentation of updated evidence review

Ms. Stone presented the update on the systematic literature review for masks, looking at the key question, “For healthcare personnel caring for patients with respiratory infections, what is the effectiveness of N95 respirators compared to medical/surgical masks in preventing symptomatic illness or laboratory-confirmed infection?”

- It has been about a year since this review was initially conducted, so three new studies were captured.
- It was highlighted that studies that did not directly compare N95 use with mask use in healthcare settings were excluded.
- The literature reviews will be shared with the workgroup once they have completed CDC review.

How to incorporate evidence in guideline

- Once the reviews complete CDC clearance, they will be posted to the HICPAC website.
- The group did not come to a final consensus on how the literature reviews will be incorporated into the guidance.

How to handle Appendix A/Part 2

- The workgroup discussed how to handle the transition period between the Part I update and Appendix A.
- Workgroup members agreed there should be a banner on the webpage explaining that Appendix A will be updated segmentally.
- A member suggested there should also be an explanation of how the new transmission categories will map to the old in the interim.
- Members discussed the “novel” category and whether it should have a different name.
 - Some pathogens may remain in that category even when they are not novel.
 - Members were asked to send ideas.

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

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for October 19, 2023, at 2:00 pm ET.