

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

October 19, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

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

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

Agenda

- Roll call
- Recap of prior meeting and draft update
- Naming discussion
- Feedback for the draft document

Discussion Summary

Recap of prior meeting and draft update

After recapping the last meeting, Dr. Lin updated the group on the status of the Isolation Precautions draft and the listening session that was held with outside stakeholders.

- CDC will do a preliminary review of the draft, and then it will be sent to the workgroup and HICPAC members ahead of the November public meeting.
- Last week, CDC members participated in a listening session with various stakeholders, including aerosol scientists, nursing unions, and others in the occupational health industry.
 - Minutes from that meeting will be posted to the HICPAC website.

Naming discussion

The group discussed whether the “novel” air category should be renamed.

- Options were sent to the workgroup and there was consensus that this category should be called something different.
- Option 1: routine air, enhanced air, and extended air
- Option 2: routine air, special air, extended air
- Originally, the definition for this category was more narrow, but feedback was received to add pathogens that have a high potential to cause more than mild illness to this category.
 - Members agreed this may lead to a wider array of pathogens being included in this category than intended.
- A member expressed concern that enhanced and extended are too similar, which could cause confusion for front-line staff.
- The language will be edited to help clarify which pathogens fall in this category.
- Workgroup members agreed on option 2 (routine, special, extended).

Feedback for the draft document

- Recommendations have been scored as Standard Practice or Expert Opinion.
 - The appendix of the current draft contains a general description of the update process and a section on recommendation formulation and categorization.
 - Sub-bullet
- The Use of PPE by Visitors section has been rewritten as a narrative rather than a recommendation.
 - The change was made because the type of PPE used by visitors is pathogen-specific.

- WG members agreed with this change.
- The group discussed Routine Air 1.D.
 - This recommendation refers to the Special Situations section.
 - Members expressed this could be confusing.
 - The workgroup agreed to remove Routine Air 1.D. and keep the paragraph on Special Situations
- Members discussed if it should be clarified in the draft that a higher level of protection can be chosen.
 - Members expressed concern that this could cause conflicting messaging.
 - It could be in the narrative but not a recommendation.
- The group was asked to read the draft and send additional feedback.
 - The goal is to send a draft to CDC for review by Monday.

The call adjourned at 3:02 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for November 8, 2023, at 10:00 am ET.