

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

November 8, 2023, 10:00 am ET

Participants

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

CDC: Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Alex Kallen, David Kuhar, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Christine So, Erin Stone, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Debrief from HICPAC meeting and next steps
- Review proposed edits to guideline draft narrative prior to CDC review

Discussion Summary

Debrief from HICPAC meeting and next steps

- After discussion and public comment, some revisions were made to the recommendations, which were then voted on and approved by the HICPAC committee.
- The narrative is being edited based on feedback received.
- Once the draft is finalized, it will be submitted to CDC for review and then posted to the Federal Register for public comment.

Review proposed edits to guideline draft narrative prior to CDC review

The Workgroup (WG) reviewed and discussed proposed edits to the draft.

- Voluntary use of N95s
 - At the meeting, it was brought up that HICPAC may be going beyond the OSHA regulation.
 - OSHA does not require an employer to provide N95s for voluntary use.
 - WG members agreed on the current language as is.
- Special Air Precautions narrative language
 - The WG discussed whether the narrative paragraph on Special Air Precautions should say ‘and effective treatment’ OR ‘or effective treatment.’
 - A WG member suggested ‘effective’ be added before ‘vaccine.’
 - It was also suggested to change ‘more than mild illness’ to ‘severe illness.’
 - WG members agreed the language is intended to apply to the general population.
 - The co-chairs will work on updating this language and email the WG for feedback.
- Should extended use of eye protection be allowed except if going in a Transmission-Based Precautions (TBP) room?
 - WG members agreed with addressing this in the narrative.
 - WG members also discussed specifying that this only applies to reusable eye and face protection that can be disinfected between uses and does not apply to disposable masks with integral eye protection.
- Defining a patient’s designated space for contact precautions
 - WG members suggested adding bullets to the three options.
 - WG members expressed concern about the option to enter the space without any PPE and felt at a minimum, gloves should be required.
 - The co-chairs will rework this language and email the WG for feedback.
- Cohorting and special patient populations
 - A narrative has been added to this section.

- WG members expressed that the narrative description is too long and complicated and should be condensed.
- The co-chairs will edit the narrative and email the WG for feedback.

The call adjourned at 3:02 pm with no additional comments or questions.
The next Workgroup call is scheduled for November 16, 2023, at 2 pm ET.