

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

February 14, 2024, 3:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Mike Lin, Sharon Wright, William Bennett, Lisa Brosseau, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Robert Harrison, Morgan Katz, Anu Malani, Mark Russi, Erica Shenoy, Connie Steed, Julie Trivedi, Deborah Yokoe

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Marie de Perio, Alex Kallen, David Kuhar, Melissa Schaefer, Erin Stone, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Introductions
- Welcome from Chairperson
- Review Workgroup process
- Workgroup charge
- Timeline for meetings
- Questions

Discussion Summary

Introductions and welcome from the Workgroup (WG) Chairperson

- After introductions, Dr. Lin welcomed everyone and thanked them for committing the time to this very important work.
- At the next meeting, the WG will review the current draft and the questions from CDC the WG has been tasked to answer in more detail.

Review Workgroup process

Dr. Kallen reviewed the WG process.

- HICPAC is a Federal Advisory Committee that advises CDC and HHS on the development and evaluation of healthcare infection prevention and control guidelines and guidance, the development of policy statements regarding the prevention and surveillance of healthcare-associated infections and healthcare-related conditions, and new and updated surveillance methodologies related to healthcare-associated infections.
- HICPAC utilizes WGs to help develop these documents, and this WG has specifically been tasked with updating the 2007 Isolation Precautions guideline.
- The timeframe for WGs to complete their task can range from 18 to 24 months and sometimes longer, depending on the WG charge.
- WG members are asked to make their best effort to participate the entire time, but it is understood that this may not always be possible.
- WG members are also asked to attend at least 75% of the meetings.
- CDC personnel participate as technical experts and are here to answer questions.
- WG meetings, unlike HICPAC meetings, are not open to the public, and WG materials are to be kept confidential and not shared with anyone outside the WG.
- Only WG members and invited consultants should participate in WG meetings.
- Liaisons to the HICPAC committee can serve on WGs, but they serve as subject matter experts and do not represent their liaison organization.
- Potential conflicts of interest (COI) should be disclosed to the WG chairs or the WG Designated Federal Official (DFO) so they can determine how to address the potential COI.

- WG members are asked to be respectful of each other and of differing opinions.
- WG members who cannot adhere to the confidentiality requirements may lose their role on the WG.
- WGs are not consensus forming bodies and do not vote.
 - They present options to the HICPAC committee to consider, and the committee is the voting entity.

Workgroup Charge

- There are three main areas:
 - There are four questions from CDC that the group needs to answer.
 - The letter from CDC explaining these questions was sent to the WG.
 - The WG is responsible for reviewing and formulating responses to public comments.
 - The WG will also work on Part II of the guidance, which is the update of the 2007 Appendix A.
- Dr. Bell spoke to the group about the process of updating Appendix A.
 - This is a long list of pathogens, and as groups of pathogens are completed, they will go through the CDC clearance process, where the appropriate CDC subject matter experts will review them.

Timeline for Meetings

- The group will meet every other Thursday at 2 pm ET.

Questions

- A member asked if there are HICPAC committee members on the WG.
 - There are four HICPAC members on the WG, which includes the two co-chairs.

The call adjourned at 3:46 pm with no additional comments or questions.
The next Workgroup call is scheduled for February 29, 2024, at 2 pm ET.