

## **HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call**

February 29, 2024, 2:00 pm ET

### **Participants**

Workgroup: Mike Lin, Sharon Wright, Hilary Babcock, William Bennett, Lisa Brosseau, Elaine Dekker, Robert Harrison, Morgan Katz, Anu Malani, Melissa McDiarmid, Mark Russi, Erica Shenoy, Connie Steed, Julie Trivedi, Deborah Yokoe

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Marie de Perio, Alex Kallen, David Kuhar, Kenneth Mead, Devon Okasako-Schmucker, Melissa Schaefer, Erin Stone, David Weissman, Laura Wells

### **Agenda**

- Member introductions and conflicts of interest (COI) disclosure
- Meeting ground rules
- Recap of prior workgroup activities
- Overview of workgroup questions and timeline
- Introduction to Question 1

### **Discussion Summary**

#### Member introductions and conflicts of interest (COI) disclosure

- Hilary Babcock: Liaison to the HICPAC committee for The Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), but on this WG, serves as a subject matter expert and does not represent the views of SHEA.
- Lisa Brosseau: Consultant to companies that produce respirators.
- Michael Lin: Has received research support in the form of contributed product from OpGen and Sage Products (now part of Stryker Corporation).
- Mark Russi: Liaison to the HICPAC committee for the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), but on this WG, serves as a subject matter expert and does not represent the views of ACOEM.
- Connie Steed: Infection Prevention Consultant and lecturer
- These disclosures were reviewed by the WG and HICPAC DFO and the following remediation process was identified and agreed to by the WG Chairs and the members with a conflict:
  - Conflict was disclosed at a WG meeting.
  - If the WG participant feels unable to provide objective input, they must recuse themselves from the WG activities under consideration for which they have a potential conflict.
  - Conflicts within the workgroup relevant to the topic will be disclosed to HICPAC at a public meeting prior to presentations from the workgroup.

#### Meeting ground rules

- WG members are asked to keep WG discussions and meeting materials confidential.
- Do not post WG materials to social media.
- Raise your virtual hand if you would like to speak.
- Try to leave your camera on to facilitate discussion.
- Commit to a learning mindset.
- Share all relevant information.
- Ask genuine questions.
- Ensure everyone has an opportunity to contribute.
- Focus your comments on the points being discussed.

- Maintain an atmosphere of respect and openness to the perspective of others.

#### Recap of prior workgroup activities

- Dr. Lin and Dr. Wright presented a summary of the WG history up to this point.
- The WG goal is to update the 2007 Isolation Precautions Guideline
- The draft 2024 Part I updates Parts I—IV of the 2007 Guideline, and Part II of the 2024 Guideline will update the 2007 Appendix A.
- The group was also presented with a summary of the evidence reviews conducted, the draft outline, the Part I draft format, and some key points.
- A WG member commented that the terms Standard Practice and Standard Precautions could be confused with each other.
  - The group agreed to discuss this further as the draft is edited.
- The current draft guidance was edited and approved by HICPAC in November 2023
- It has not been cleared by CDC for 60-day public comment period (Federal Register).
- The WG charge is to review questions posed by CDC and make recommendations to HICPAC for discussion and vote; if approved, the draft can proceed to CDC review and posting for public comment.

#### Overview of workgroup questions and timeline

- The group reviewed the four questions from CDC to the Isolation WG, which can be found in the Isolation Precautions Guideline Update blog post on the HICPAC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/IPGU-blog-posts.html>).

#### Introduction to Question 1

- Should there be a category of Transmission-Based Precautions that includes masks (instead of NIOSH-approved N95s [or higher-level] respirators) for pathogens that spread by air? Should N95 respirators be recommended for all pathogens that spread by air?
- The group discussed points to consider related to Question 1.
  - Points for why a mask category should be included:
    - Observations across the infection prevention and control (IPC) community have shown masks protect persons across a variety of pathogens that transmit by air, including bacterial and common viral pathogens
    - Overall effectiveness in preventing lab-defined respiratory illness among healthcare personnel (HCP) was demonstrated in clinical studies to be similar with masks and respirators in the context of a hierarchy of controls.
    - Masks have pragmatic advantages in clinical settings (staff are accustomed to their use in the context of risk assessment under Standard Precautions; stable supply chain; tolerability, easy to use)
  - Points for why a Mask category should not be included:
    - Masks are not specifically designed to prevent inhalation of pathogens in the air; respirators are designed for such purpose.
    - Respirators are fitted under a respiratory protection program, while masks are not fitted.
    - Existing comparative studies demonstrating comparable effectiveness between masks and respirators have limitations that limit their generalizability to HCP.

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

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for March 14, 2024, at 2 pm ET.