

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

May 23, 2024, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Mike Lin, Sharon Wright, Hilary Babcock, Lisa Brosseau, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Robert Harrison, Morgan Katz, Anu Malani, Melissa McDiarmid, Erica Shenoy, Connie Steed, Jane Thomason, 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

- Attendance and conflicts of interest disclosure
- Recap
- Discussion of Section A: Transmission via air
- Next Steps

Discussion Summary

- No new conflicts of interest were disclosed.

Recap

- Dr. Lin reviewed the agenda and provided a recap of the prior meeting and a roadmap for future meetings. As a reminder, the June HICPAC meeting has been canceled, so the next HICPAC meeting will tentatively be on August 22nd.
- The goal for the next HICPAC meeting is to present workgroup responses to CDC's four questions.
- Due to the July 4th holiday, the workgroup (WG) meeting scheduled for that day will tentatively be rescheduled to July 11th.

Discussion of Section A: Transmission via air

- WG members who sent suggested edits to Section A reviewed their feedback with the group.
- Changes to the description of Transmission by Air were suggested, as well as factors to aid in understanding when a pathogen is capable of transmitting by air.
- WG members debated whether this document should include proposed language from the recent World Health Organization (WHO) report ("Global technical consultation report on proposed terminology for pathogens that transmit through the air" [WHO; April 18, 2024]).
 - WG members pointed out that the original goal of this revised CDC draft guideline was to be more concise than the 2007 guideline, but other WG members expressed that additional language adapted from the WHO report is important to include.
 - There was a suggestion that a brief summary of the WHO report could be included along with a link to the document.
 - A WG member pointed out that the WHO report focuses on terminology and does not contain recommendations for infection prevention.
- WG members discussed the need to be explicit in the draft about the departure from the airborne and droplet terminology, why it does not apply anymore, and the science behind it.
- Several WG members expressed that ventilation and other factors need to be considered and discussed before answering the questions from the CDC.
 - Other WG members agreed these are essential factors but reiterated that topics such as ventilation are discussed in more detail in other guidelines, which this draft links to.

- WG members debated how the relevance of various scientific study types in formulating infection prevention recommendations should be described in Section A.

Next Steps

- This discussion will be continued at the next meeting, and then the group will move on to discuss question 3.

The call adjourned at 3:03 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for June 6, 2024, at 2:00 pm ET.