

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

July 18, 2024, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

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

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, David Kuhar, Kenneth Mead, Devon Okasako-Schmucker, Melissa Schaefer, Erin Stone, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Attendance and conflicts of interest disclosure
- Recap and roadmap
- Review Question 2: Group discussion
- Next steps

Discussion Summary

- No new conflicts of interest were disclosed.

Recap and roadmap

- Dr. Lin reviewed upcoming meeting dates and the plan for the workgroup (WG) presentation to the HICPAC committee at the upcoming public meeting.
- The HICPAC meeting will be a full day on August 22nd and a half day on August 23rd.
- The WG will review a draft letter responding to CDC's four questions before presenting it at the HICPAC public meeting.

Review Question 2: Group discussion

Dr. Lin led a discussion on CDC question 2.

- CDC question 2: Can the workgroup clarify the criteria that would be used to determine which transmission by air category applies for a pathogen? For the category of Special Air Precautions, can you clarify if this category includes only new or emerging pathogens or if this category might also include other pathogens that are more established? Can you also clarify what constitutes a severe illness?
- The WG reviewed the current draft Transmission-Based Precautions to Prevent Transmission by Air categories:
 - Routine Air, Special Air, and Extended Air
- Dr. Lin presented some alternate criteria language for the workgroup (WG) to discuss.
- Some WG members agreed with the alternate draft language, but there was a comment that the use of distance as a criterion for the transmission categories should be removed.
 - A WG member commented that transmissibility and the burden of morbidity and mortality are the most important factors to consider.
 - Another WG member commented that distance is used to determine whether an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) is required and not to assess the use of a mask or respirator.
- A WG member suggested that the vulnerability and impact on health of patients and healthcare personnel (HCP) should be added as criteria for the Transmission by Air categories.
 - Other WG members agreed that the consideration of adverse outcomes could be broadened.

- WG members discussed their experiences with the effectiveness of masks in preventing transmission of certain pathogens.
- A WG member commented that they object to recommending masks based on observations and experience.

Next Steps

- A homework assignment will be sent tomorrow to help gauge the WG's thoughts on responding to the four CDC questions.

The call adjourned at 3:00 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for August 1, 2024, at 2 pm ET.