

## HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

August 15, 2024, 2:00 pm ET

### Participants

Workgroup: Mike Lin, Sharon Wright, Lisa Brosseau, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Robert Harrison, 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
- Discuss plans for August 22 HICPAC meeting
- Discuss WG homework feedback on questions
- Next steps

### Discussion Summary

- No new conflicts of interest were disclosed.

#### Discuss plans for August 22 HICPAC meeting

- Dr. Lin gave an update on the Isolation Precautions WG presentation.
  - The presentation and vote on a draft letter from HICPAC to CDC has been deferred to the November meeting.
  - The August presentation will include an update on the new members added to the WG and how many meetings have been held since February 29, 2024.

#### Discuss WG homework feedback on questions

- All 17 WG members responded to the straw poll.
  - Dr. Lin reminded the WG that straw polls are conducted in work groups to understand current thinking on a topic but are not considered binding, nor do they represent a final assessment or approval of a topic.
- Straw poll results were de-identified by CDC support staff to be presented anonymously.
- Question 1a: Should there be a category of Transmission-based Precautions that includes masks (instead of NIOSH-Approved® N95® [or higher-level] respirators) for pathogens that spread by the air?
  - There are differing opinions from the workgroup members at this time.
- Question 1b: Should N95 respirators be recommended for all pathogens that spread by the air?
  - There are differing opinions from the workgroup members at this time.
- Question 2a: Can the workgroup clarify the criteria that would be used to determine which transmission by air category applies for a pathogen? State whether you would prefer the original narrative wording, proposed alternate narrative wording, or another approach.
  - There are differing opinions from the workgroup members at this time.
  - Some WG members have offered another approach to clarifying the criteria.
- Question 2b: 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?

- There was general agreement that Special Air Precautions might also include pathogens that are more established.
- Question 2c: Can you also clarify what constitutes a severe illness? Answer whether you would favor retaining the original wording of ‘severe illness’, the alternate ‘substantial adverse outcome’, or another wording in the draft narrative. What would your word choice constitute?
  - There are differing opinions from the workgroup members at this time.
- Question 3a: Is the current guideline language sufficient to allow for voluntary use of a NIOSH-approved N95 (or higher-level) respirator?
  - There are differing opinions from the workgroup members at this time.
- Question 3b: Should the document include a recommendation about healthcare organizations allowing voluntary use?
  - There are differing opinions from the workgroup members at this time.
- Question 4a: Should there be a recommendation for use of source control in healthcare settings that is broader than current draft recommendations?
  - There are differing opinions from the workgroup members at this time.
- Question 4b: Should source control be recommended at all times in healthcare facilities?
  - There are differing opinions from the workgroup members at this time.
- Discussion:
  - The WG discussed clarifying the scope of this guideline update and what topics should be included in it versus other guidelines (e.g., environmental).
    - The role of CDC versus other agencies, such as OSHA, was also discussed.
  - A WG member asked that suggested edits submitted by WG members, such as an updated definition of air transmission and reorganizing the content, be revisited.
    - Dr. Lin responded that the WG will revisit the current draft and consider incorporating suggested edits once the WG finishes discussions on answering the questions from CDC.
  - A WG member stated that the language for the suggested alternate narrative related to question 2a needs to be clarified.
  - A WG member asked that the WG revisit the literature reviews and discuss included studies and other studies that were not included.

#### Next Steps

- The WG was advised that the August 22<sup>nd</sup> HICPAC meeting will be live-streamed on YouTube, and the link will be on the HICPAC website.

The call adjourned at 2:48 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for August 29, 2024, at 2 pm ET.