

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

September 12, 2024, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Mike Lin, Sharon Wright, William Bennett, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Robert Harrison, Morgan Katz, Melissa McDiarmid, Mark Russi, Erica Shenoy, Jane Thomason, Julie Trivedi
CDC: Sydney Byrd, Alex Kallen, David Kuhar, Kenneth Mead, Devon Okasako-Schmucker, Melissa Schaefer, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Attendance and conflicts of interest disclosure
- Wrap up of Question 3 discussion
- Discussion of Question 4 straw poll results
- Updated timeline and next steps

Discussion Summary

- No new conflicts of interest were disclosed.

Wrap up of Question 3 discussion

- Dr. Wright gave a recap of the previous meeting and then led a discussion on CDC Question 3, “Is the current guideline language sufficient to allow for voluntary use of a NIOSH Approved N95 (or higher-level) respirator? Should the document include a recommendation about healthcare organizations allowing voluntary use?”
- The workgroup (WG) discussed whether fit testing should be recommended for voluntary use of respirators.
 - A WG member expressed strong support for recommending fit testing for voluntary use of respirators.
 - Some WG members stated that the language needs to be clear that if a risk assessment determines a respirator is required, transmission-based precautions are enacted. Any healthcare personnel who enter a bedside/room or have contact with a patient where a respirator is required are required to be fit tested.
 - A WG member added that if the situation is determined not to require a respirator, but a healthcare worker would like to wear one, the recommendation language should indicate that voluntary use of a non-fit tested respirator is allowed.
 - WG members discussed the scope of this guideline and the role of respiratory protection program managers at healthcare facilities (who generally are not in Infection Prevention) in developing programs for safe, voluntary use of respirators.

Discussion of Question 4 straw poll results

- The WG discussed CDC Question 4, “Should there be a recommendation for use of source control in healthcare settings that is broader than current draft recommendations? Should source control be recommended at all times in healthcare facilities?”
- A majority of the WG favored the current language in the draft for source control.
 - WG members agreed it could be helpful to reorder the draft source control recommendations 1. and 2.
 - It was also suggested by one member to consider swapping the order of 1.a. and 1.b.
- The WG discussed universal source control masking and when it should be implemented.

- Some WG members favored a seasonal/high community levels approach, and others favored a year-round approach.

Updated timeline and next steps

- There are four meetings left before the November HICPAC meeting.
- The WG will discuss clinical studies and evidence review at the next meeting.
 - The studies and homework will be sent to the group.
- WG member feedback to CDC Questions 1 and 2 will be revisited at the following meetings.

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

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for September 26, 2024, at 2 pm ET.