

## 9-4-2024 Weekly Clinical Update

So many facilities are experiencing COVID outbreaks...again. And there are so many questions about what guidance to follow.

Here is a link to the “Infection Control Guidance: SARS-CoV-2. [https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/infection-control/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/infection-control/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html) The guidance is dated 6-24-24, and is the most current “guidance” from CDC. Within this guidance are links to all of the components. That being said...”**Updates:** Recommendations included in this guidance (e.g., duration of isolation, recommended personal protective equipment) **are being reviewed as part of updates to the 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions. Once a draft is finalized by the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), it will be posted in the federal register for a public comment period before being returned to HICPAC for additional review.** Further information about HICPAC, the guideline development and public comment process, and future meetings is available at: [Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee \(HICPAC\).](#)

Please note that there has been no change in guidance from CMS via a QSO letter, but CMS has been consistent in saying that CMS follows guidance from CDC. (It’s all so confusing, isn’t it?)

Every facility’s Infection Preventionist should review this guidance including the links. In addition, each facility should check with the State Health Department to ensure that the state does not have additional or different recommendations, and remember to get those recommendations IN WRITING in case a surveyor asks to see the guidance from the State.

In the CDC guidance, the top categories including:

- Recommended routine infection prevention and control (IPC) practices during COVID-19 pandemic
  - Included in this section is the requirement for N-95 or higher source control which required fit-testing
    - “Source control options for HCP include:
      - ❖ A NIOSH Approved® particulate respirator with N95® filters or higher;
      - ❖ A respirator approved under standards used in other countries that are similar to NIOSH Approved N95 filtering facepiece respirators (Note: These should not be used instead of a NIOSH Approved respirator when respiratory protection is indicated);
      - ❖ A [barrier face covering that meets ASTM F3502-21 requirements including Workplace Performance and Workplace Performance Plus masks](#); OR
      - ❖ A well-fitting facemask.”
- Recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) practices when caring for a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection
- Setting-specific considerations with a specific section for Nursing Homes and another section for Assisted Living, Group Homes and Other Residential Care Settings