



December 12 CDC Infection Control in Healthcare Personnel

MESH FLU WATCH

Threat Assessment

Managing infections within a healthcare setting can be a difficult task with the flurry of people, bacteria, and germs that are constantly present. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recently released an update to their 1998 *'Guidelines for infection control in health care personnel'*. Not all parts of the report are updated, but there are sections that are refined and brought up to date. The report is split into 8 sections, with some sections ranging from few recommendations to a broader list.

1. Leadership and Management
2. Communication and Collaboration
3. Assessment and Reduction of Risks for Infection among Healthcare Personnel Populations
4. Medical Evaluations
5. Occupational Infection Prevention and Control: Education and Training
6. Immunization Programs
7. Management of Potentially Infectious Exposures and Illnesses
8. Management of Healthcare Personnel Health Records

Below are some major highlights and recommendations from the above sections to provide some examples of the updates.

For occupational health services leaders and staff-

Develop and monitor performance measures for occupational infection prevention and control services that include the proportion of healthcare personnel with documented evidence of immunity and the proportion of healthcare personnel vaccinated, as appropriate, for each vaccine-preventable disease recommended for healthcare personnel by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Periodically review healthcare personnel exposure data to identify high risk sub-populations for refresher infection prevention and control education and training.

For healthcare organization leaders and administrators-

Regularly meet with occupational health services leaders to review results of risk assessments related to occupational infection prevention and control, set performance goals, and charge relevant healthcare organization departments and individuals to reduce risks.

For leaders and staff of occupational health services-

Establish a timely, confidential, and non-punitive mechanism for healthcare personnel to report potentially infectious exposures and access exposure and illness management services 24 hours a day and 7 days per week.

Define criteria, methods, and individuals responsible for reporting potentially infectious exposures and illnesses or suspected infectious outbreaks to internal departments and external authorities.

Action Steps:

1. Specify methods of communication between occupational health services, healthcare personnel, and others (e.g., human resources, managers) about work restrictions.

2. Define criteria, methods, and individuals responsible for reporting potentially infectious exposures and illnesses or suspected infectious outbreaks to internal departments and external authorities.

3. Establish systems to maintain confidential work-related healthcare personnel health records, preferably in electronic systems. (CDC)

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