



OUR PATIENTS. OUR UNION. OUR VOICE.

WASHINGTON DC
8455 Colesville Road
Suite 1100
Silver Spring MD 20910
phone: 800-287-5021
fax: 240-235-2019

OAKLAND
155 Grand Avenue
Suite 100
Oakland CA 94612
phone: 800-504-7859

December 16, 2023

Dr. Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30329

RE: CDC Must Reject HICPAC's 2024 Draft and Protect Health Care Workers and Patients from Infectious Diseases

Dear Dr. Mandy Cohen:

We, the undersigned individuals and organizations, urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reject draft updates to infection prevention guidance for health care settings, as proposed by the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) to the CDC. On November 3, 2023, HICPAC unanimously approved draft updates to the 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions to send to CDC for review.

Specific issues with HICPAC's 2024 draft that must be remedied include:

- **Fails to fully recognize the science on aerosol transmission of infectious diseases and remains overly focused on short vs far range transmission.**
- **Inaccurately treats surgical masks as respiratory protection for health care workers exposed to infectious aerosols and reserves N95 and other respirators for only specific "special" circumstances.**
- **Focuses almost exclusively on personal protective equipment (PPE) but fails to make substantive recommendations on other essential measures, such as ventilation, patient and visitor screening, and isolation.**

We urge the CDC to develop a new draft that actively incorporates the expertise of and insights from frontline health care workers, their unions, patients, and public health experts—both in infection prevention and other fields with essential expertise, including industrial hygiene, ventilation engineering, respiratory protection, aerosol science, and occupational medicine and nursing. The CDC should issue strong, robust guidance to prevent infections among health care workers and patients in order to protect public health.

Sincerely,
The undersigned organizations and individuals

Organizational Signatures:

National Nurses United
Accutec
ACE — Action for Care and Equity
ARTS, CRAFTS & THEATER SAFETY
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization
Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics
Association Winslow Santé Publique
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions
Caring Connections Co-Op
Celebrate845
CIR Long COVID
Colorado for Universal Health Care
Covid Conscious Bloc of San Antonio
CSEA/AFSCME Local 1000
Disability Policy Consortium
EOHS Associates LLC
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)
Hawaii for a Safe Return to Schools
Health Watch USA(sm)
Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health
International Safety Center
Labor Occupational Health Program
Labor Today International
Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA!)
Long Covid Action Project
Long COVID PR
Long COVID Justice & Strategies for High Impact
Marked By Covid
MaskTogetherAmerica
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
MDC Consulting

National Council for Occupational Safety and Health
National Union of Healthcare Workers
ONG DESINFLÁMATE para la Medicina Social
Pan End It!
Pandemic Equity Initiative
People's CDC
REPSS, Inc.
Reptek LLC
Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (RICOSH)
SafeWork Washington
Socialist COVID-19 Organizing Resistance and Education (SCORE)
Something Wild Wellness
Stop Bullying Coalition
Todos Medical
UAW International Union
UFCW Local 222IN
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)
United Steelworkers (USW)
Utility Workers Union of America
Wisconsin Community Health Action
World Health Network

And 5,268 individual signatures!