



Who is the review for: Ministries of health, healthcare facilities and other stakeholders to plan, implement and manage IPC strategies for respiratory infectious diseases.

Health care workers and infection prevention and control (IPC) for respiratory infectious diseases: **Implementation considerations**

Health care workers point to several factors that influence their ability and willingness to follow IPC guidelines. This includes the source of the guidelines, how relevant they are and how they are communicated. Other factors include support from managers, workplace culture, and provision of training. Physical space, access to and trust in personal protective equipment (PPE) are key elements. A desire to deliver good patient care and protect their own family and friends also motivate healthcare workers to follow guidelines. The review highlights the importance of including all facility staff, including support staff, when implementing IPC guidelines.



Training and education

Mandatory training (on infection transmission and PPE use) for all staff who have contact with patients

Delegate person for training/engagement/support

Help all staff to understand the importance of IPC
Ensure staff are properly fitted for PPE to avoid discomfort
Consider the impact of IPC on patient and family – loneliness, stigmatisation

Organisational support

Clear evidence-based guidelines in line with National and International guidance
Plan for effective communication of any changes to guidelines
Consider additional workload when caring for patients in isolation and the burden of PPE use

Physical environment

Provide enough space to isolate, minimize overcrowding, restrict visitors
Provide adequate facilities for staff handwashing, changing and showering
Provide adequate supplies of quality PPE, recognising increase in demand

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.

The information for this summary is taken from the following Cochrane rapid review of qualitative research: Houghton C, Meskell P, Delaney H, Smalle M, Glenton C, Booth A, Chan XHS, Devane D, Biesty LM.

Barriers and facilitators to healthcare workers' adherence with infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines for respiratory infectious diseases: a rapid qualitative evidence synthesis.

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2020, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD013582.

DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD013582.