

August 23, 2023

Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC),
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Submitted via email at: hicpac@cdc.gov

Re: Update to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance *Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings*

Dear Dr. Alexander J. Kallen, MD, MPH,

The American Nurses Association (ANA) submits this letter to the Committee for your consideration regarding your current work updating CDC's guidance *Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings*. ANA is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's over 5 million registered nurses through its state and constituent member associations, organizational affiliates, and the individual members. ANA strongly urges the Committee to protect nurses and all healthcare professionals in the update to this guidance.

During the COVID-19 pandemic nurses consistently reported an insufficient supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), often resulting in the need to make their own PPE and/or reusing or decontaminating previously used PPE, which made them feel unsafe.¹ As we continue to face new SARS-CoV-2 variants and prepare for future pandemics, it is critical that healthcare employers have clear and specific protection mandates to avoid repeating these unsafe practices. For example, the Crisis and Contingency Standard allows too much flexibility for employers and leaves healthcare professionals without a predictable plan based on the best evidence-based guidelines.

The Committee and CDC must ensure that any updated guidance includes the highest standards to protect healthcare professionals. ANA urges guidance to include multiple control measures against all respiratory pathogens, especially in environments with suspected cases. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Nanof, Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs, at tim.nanof@ana.org or (301) 628-5166.

Sincerely,



Debbie Hatmaker, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Nursing Officer / EVP

cc: Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, ANA President
Loressa Cole, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, ANA Chief Executive Officer

¹ American Nurses Association, *Pulse on the Nation's Nurses Survey Series*, Last Updated January 24, 2023, Available at: <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/work-environment/health-safety/disaster-preparedness/coronavirus/what-you-need-to-know/survey-series-results/>.