
Bree Collaborative | Infection Control Workgroup

May 9, 2022 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Haugen (chair), MD, Walla Walla Clinic & Surgical Center

Anne Sumner, BSN, MBA, Baker Boyer Bank

Daniel Kaminsky, MD, Walla Walla County Department of Community Health

Lisa Waldowski, DNP, CIC, Kaiser Permanente

Rebecca Brown, Walla Walla Clinic & Surgical Center

Rhonda Bowen, Comagine Health

Stephanie Jaross, BSN, RN, Proliance Center for Outpatient and Spine Surgery

STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Nick Locke, MPH, Bree Collaborative

Ginny Weir, MPH, Foundation for Health Care Quality

John Lynch, MD, MPH, University of Washington

WELCOME

Nick Locke, Bree Collaborative, welcomed everyone to the Infection Control workgroup. Members briefly introduced themselves and reviewed the previous month's minutes.

Decision: Adopt April 11th Minutes

REVIEW: BACKGROUND AND OUTPATIENT HEALTH SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Locke reviewed some of the changes made to the outpatient health systems recommendations since the last meeting in April. Specifically, there is a new "background" section which helps describe the scope of the workgroup's recommendations, and some of the recommendations were reorganized in the "preventative measures" section to flow from education to practice. Mark Haugen, MD, Walla Walla Clinic reviewed the new material and invited comments.

- Background Information: The workgroup had previously discussed adding text to clarify the "outpatient infection control settings" included in the recommendations. This new background/introduction is meant to help orient readers to the importance of outpatient infection control and how recommendations can be used.
 - Workgroup members proposed minor wording changes to reflect the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, as well as recommended language about continuing to follow applicable state or federal guidelines and regulations.
- Outpatient Health Systems Section:
 - Workgroup members discussed adding language about partnerships to prevent community spread with local public health.

DISCUSS: EMPLOYER AND INSURER RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Haugen continued the discussion by turning to new recommendations for employers and insurers. As our goal is specifically outpatient infection control, most recommendations in this area will cover how to incentivize proper infection control practices through employer benefits or insurance structure.

- Employers:

- Workgroup members recommended adding more references to the state Labor and Industry guidelines, which are more in-depth than OSHA recommendations.
- Recommendations to allow for sick time off should include the stipulation that sick time off is paid in order to allow employees to take time off when they are infectious
- Similar to vaccinations, a new recommendation to cover/incentivize testing was added.
- Insurers:
 - A similar recommendation to cover testing was added
 - Workgroup members suggested adding telehealth reimbursement rates as an incentive to prevent the spread of infections
 - Workgroup members suggested adding a recommendation to waive copays/deductibles for a patients who are currently symptomatic to allow them to receive care at well-care visits.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND CLOSE

Dr. Haugen thanked everyone for attending and opened up space for public comment. At the next meeting the workgroup will review all current recommendations and begin to discuss recommendations for public health and patients. The next workgroup meeting will be held on June 13th, 2022.