On Sept. 10, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance for healthcare settings, Infection Control Guidance for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus (COVID-19). In general, these updates do not reflect substantial changes to recommended practices, rather they have been made to further clarify, consolidate, and simplify existing healthcare IPC guidance.

As a part of this update, multiple setting-specific guidance documents, including those for EMS and other settings, have been streamlined and combined into the main IPC guidance for healthcare settings. This was done to make it easier for healthcare personnel to find relevant guidance for the duration of the COVID-19 response.

Vaccination, testing, use of source control by healthcare personnel, patients, and visitors, and use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) by healthcare personnel caring for patients with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections continue to be emphasized.

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