**Change Memo for**

“Emerging Infections Program Tracking of SARS-CoV-2 Infections among Healthcare Personnel”

**(OMB Control No. 0920-1296)**

**Expiration Date: 10/31/2020**

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requests a nonmaterial/non-substantive change of the currently approved Information Collection Request: “Emerging Infections Program Tracking of SARS-CoV-2 Infections among Healthcare Personnel (OMB Control No. 0920-1296).”

**Background:**

Healthcare personnel (HCP) are at risk of contracting COVID-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, during their interactions with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients or patients with unrecognized infections. Given the novel nature of this virus, little is known about specific risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 transmission, particularly among HCP exposed in healthcare facilities. Furthermore, as community transmission has become widespread and hospitals and other healthcare facilities are caring for rapidly increasing numbers of infected patients, the risks of SARS-CoV-2 infections among HCP in U.S. healthcare facilities remain unclear. Additional information about characteristics of infected HCP and any associated risk and protective factors is urgently needed to inform guidance for healthcare facilities to protect the healthcare workforce—a critical asset during this pandemic.

This project **(OMB Control No. 0920-1296)** includes HCP with COVID-19 (HCP cases) and HCP with direct or indirect exposures to COVID-19 patients but who do not become cases (HCP non-cases). Primary objectives are to determine the incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infections and identify factors associated with development of COVID-19 among HCP of participating healthcare facilities within catchment areas of CDC’s Emerging Infection Program (EIP) Healthcare-Associated Infections-Community Interface Activity (HAIC), a network of 10 state health departments and their local public health and academic partners.

The EIP conducts population-based surveillance for community and healthcare-associated pathogens of public health importance, which is currently approved under OMB Control No. 0920-0978 (expiration date: 04/30/2022). The EIP also conducts special projects pertaining to the prevalence of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use in hospitals (No. 0920-0852; expiration date: 10/31/2022) and nursing homes (No. 0920-1165; expiration date: 02/29/2020). EIP assists in local, state, and national efforts to prevent, control, and monitor the public health impact of infectious diseases. In addition to population-based surveillance, the EIP sites conduct applied public health research and other special projects to describe population at risk and evaluate the impact of prevention efforts. The 10 EIP sites are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Tennessee, and are funded through a Cooperative Agreement with CDC to perform the activities noted above. More information about the work of EIP HAIC is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/eip/index.html>.

The requested changes, summarized below, represent minor modifications to the previously-approved instruments to include: 1) additional response choices to questions about COVID-19 signs/symptoms, HCP’s roles, areas of facility(ies) in which they work and where close contact with COVID-19 patient(s) occurred; 2) new or modified questions regarding the use of teleworking during timeframe of interest, contact with person(s) with COVID-19 who were not patients in healthcare facility(ies), the reuse and extended use of N95 respirators, the use of alternative or improvised equipment during care of COVID-19 patients, and flu vaccination; 3) modified denominator data collection form; 4) addition of an abbreviated form to capture HCP with a potential reinfection.

We are requesting these changes based on feedback from EIP interviewers and preliminary analysis of data reported to us so far.

As a result of these proposed changes, the estimated overall burden is expected to increase by 233 hours, from 2,300to 2,533. The requested changes and justifications are described in more details below.

**Proposed modifications to the Attachment 4 “Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2” Form:**

We propose to add **three** new questions and modify one question, as follows:

* **(New sub-question)** Did you telework or work remotely from a location that is not a healthcare facility (such as from home)?

All the time

Some of the time

Not at all

Not sure

* **(New sub-question)** Did you have close contact with someone with COVID-19 who was not a patient during work in your facility? (Check all that apply)

Coworker with COVID-19  Visitor with COVID-19

Someone else (NOT a patient) with COVID-19; can you specify? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No

Not sure

* **(New question)** Did you wear any alternative or improvised equipment during care of COVID-19 patients?

Yes; answer Q25a

No; go to Q26

Not sure; go to Q26

If yes, what alternative or improvised equipment did you wear? (Check all that apply)

Face covering that was not a medical mask or respirator, such as a cloth face covering, bandana, balaclava

A covering for clothing other than a medical gown, such as a lab coat, trash bag, or raincoat

Improvised eye protection, such as a homemade face shield

Other; can you specify? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **(New question)** When was the last time you received flu vaccine? MM/YYYY  Not sure

Never received flu vaccine

* **(Modified question)** Did you use any of the following practices when wearing an N95 respirator? (Check all that apply)

I wore one N95 respirator for repeated close contact encounters with several patients, without removing the respirator between patient encounters.

I wore one N95 respirator for repeated close contact encounters with several patients, but I usually removed it (‘doffed’) after each encounter.

I wore the same N95 respirator on multiple workdays.

I wore a respirator, but I did not use any of these practices.

I did not use a respirator.

Other; can you specify? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We propose to add the following response choices, as follows:

“Fatigue or malaise”, “Chest pain/tightness”, “Congestion”, and “Loss of appetite” to the question about signs and symptoms. Added response choices are highlighted below.

Have you had any of the symptoms in the table below?

No; go to Q15

Yes; check all symptoms in the table below that apply; provide onset and resolution date for any symptom you had; write interview or form completion date as resolution date if you still have the symptoms.

* If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, check the symptoms you had during the 14 days before and on the specimen collection date of your first positive coronavirus test. For example, if you had a nasal swab for coronavirus testing done on April 15, check any symptoms you had from April 1 through April 15. (MM / DD / YYYY to MM / DD / YYYY)
* If you have NOT been diagnosed with COVID-19, check the symptoms you had during the 14 days before and on the specimen collection date of your most recent NEGATIVE coronavirus test result. (MM / DD / YYYY to MM / DD / YYYY)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Symptom | When did the symptom begin? | When did the symptom end? |
| Felt feverish | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Documented fever ≥100.0°F | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Chills | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Dry cough | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Productive cough | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Fatigue or malaise | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Sore throat | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Runny nose | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Shortness of breath | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Muscle aches | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Headache | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Chest pain/tightness | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Nausea or vomiting | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Diarrhea | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Abdominal pain | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Altered sense of smell or taste | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Congestion | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Loss of appetite | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Other, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Other, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Other,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |
| Other, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure | MM / DD / YYYY  Not sure |

“Administrative staff”, “Home health aide/caregiver”, and “Nurse practitioner” to the question about roles in healthcare facility(ies)

What is your role(s) in the healthcare facility(ies) where you work? (Check all that apply)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Administrative staff | Licensed practical nurse | Physician assistant |
| Chaplain | Medical assistant | Physician (intern/resident) |
| Environmental services worker | Nurse practitioner | Physician (fellow) |
| Facilities/maintenance worker | Nursing assistant | Respiratory therapist |
| Food services worker | Nutritionist | Registered nurse |
| Home health aide/caregiver | Occupational therapist | Social worker |
| Laboratory personnel | Pharmacist or pharmacy personnel | Speech therapist |
| Cytotechnologist | Phlebotomist | Student |
| Histotechnologist | Physician (attending) | Ward clerk |
| Medical/clinical lab scientist | Physical therapist |  |
| Medical laboratory technician | Other; can you specify? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| PhD laboratory scientist | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Other laboratory personnel |  |  |

“Administrative offices”, “Dining room or cafeteria”, “Kitchen”, “Nursing home ward”, “Private residence (home health)” to the question about area(s) of the facility(ies) where the HCP normally work

In which area(s) of the facility(ies) do you normally work? (Check all that apply)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Administrative offices | Laboratory | Pharmacy |
| Dining room or cafeteria | Clinical pathology | Private residence (home health) |
| Emergency room/department | Anatomic pathology | Radiology department |
| Endoscopy room | Other laboratory type | Reception area |
| Inpatient ward | Nursing home ward | Other; can you specify? \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Intensive care unit | Operating room | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Kitchen | Outpatient clinic area | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

“Dining room cafeteria”, “Nursing home common area”, “Nursing home resident room”, and “Private residence (home health)” to the question about area(s) of the facility(ies) where close contacts with COVID-19 patient(s) occurred

In which area(s) of the facility did your close contacts with COVID-19 patient(s) occur? (Check all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dining room or cafeteria | Nursing home common area |
| During transport | Nursing home resident room |
| Emergency room examination room | Operating room |
| Endoscopy room | Outpatient examination room |
| Inpatient ward patient room | Other; can you specify? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Intensive care unit patient room | Private residence (home health) |
| Laboratory | Radiology department |

“Cloth face covering” to the question about source control on COVID-19 patient(s) during contacts

Which of the following was in place on COVID-19 patient(s) during your contacts? (Check all that apply)

Surgical or procedure mask  Cloth face covering  N95 respirator

Endotracheal or nasotracheal tube (for invasive mechanical ventilation)

Other; can you specify? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

None

Not sure

We also propose minor rewordings of some questions to improve clarity. (See attachment 1 for details)

**Proposed modifications to the Attachment 3 “Denominator” Form:**

We propose to modify denominator data collection form, as follows:

Addition of instructions for collection of denominator data

Addition of Table A for:

Number of HCP who worked at the healthcare facility for at least 1 day during the month, stratified by employee HCP and non-employee HCP (required)

Number of COVID-19 patients in the facility (optional)

Simplification of Table B and making it optional for:

Number of HCP who worked at the healthcare facility for at least 1 day during the month, stratified by job category (e.g., physicians, nurses, others)

Total number of shifts worked during the month

Total number of hours worked during the month

See **attachment 3** for the proposed “Denominator Form”.

**Proposed addition of the Attachment 2 “Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2: Possible Reinfection Form”**

We propose the following modifications to the main “Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2” Form to create an abbreviated “Possible Refection Form” for HCP who potentially have reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 weeks or months after the initial infection.

* Removal of questions about demographics and comorbidities
* Simplification of questions about COVID-19 signs and symptoms and potential community exposures

See attachment 2 for proposed addition of “Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2: Possible Reinfection Form”

**Justification:**

The proposed additions and modification will allow us to maintain and enhance surveillance of COVID-19 among HCP working in U.S. healthcare facilities in the catchment areas of EIP’s sites, one of the strategic priorities for CDC’s COVID-19 response.

Addition of new questions in “Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2 Form”

Based on feedback from EIP staff performing interviews, when asked if they had any PPE concerns, some HCP cases mentioned used of alternative or improvised equipment and reuse/extended use of N95 respirators. Some HCP cases also mentioned contacts with co-workers who had COVID-19, while others mentioned they worked remotely during the timeframe of interest. Adding and modifying these questions will help to reduce the amount of free text in “Other, specify” field, standardize answers, and improve the accuracy and quality of data collected. We added a question about flu vaccination to assess a possible co-relation between flu vaccination and SARS-CoV-2 infections among HCP working in the participating HCFs as flu season is approaching.

Addition of response choices for existing questions in the Attachment 1 “Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2 Form”

Preliminary analysis of the existing data captured in “Other, specify” field identified additional commonly reported responses including, COVID-19 signs/symptoms, HCP roles, and areas of the facilities where HCP normally worked or where close contact with COVID-19 patient(s) occurred. Adding these response choices to the questions will help to standardize the common responses and improve the accuracy and quality of data collected.

Modifications of the Attachment 3 “Denominator Form”

One of the main project objectives is to estimate the incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infections among HCP working in participating healthcare facilities (HCFs). Collecting the number of HCP working in the participating HCFs by job categories (e.g., physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists) will allow us to compare incidences across different job categories. However, stratifying the denominator data with the level of granularity included in the old “Denominator Form” would result in a huge burden on the participating HCFs’ staff and in some cases, HCFs may not be able to generate the requested granular denominator data. We simplified the “Denominator Form” to align with the National Healthcare Safety Network’s “Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Summary Form” and made Table B of the form optional for reporting. We anticipate this approach will reduce burden on participating HCFs because most of them are already reporting these data to CDC, following the requirements by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (See attachment 3)

Addition of the Attachment 2, “Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2: Possible Reinfection Form”

This project includes all HCP cases reported to EIP staff by participating healthcare facilities or state health departments. As a small number of HCP may re-test positive for SARS-CoV-2 weeks or months after their initial infections, we created an abbreviated version of the form (“Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2: Possible Reinfection Form”), focusing on recent exposures and changes since initial interview, for HCP who potentially have reinfection. We anticipate this approach will reduce burden for these HCP.

**Other data systems:**

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network (COVID-NET) conducts population-based surveillance in the 10 EIP sites for laboratory-confirmed COVID-19-associated hospitalizations. Although COVID-NET includes one question on HCP status, it does not collect detailed information on patient care activities, PPE use, or community exposures. To supplement and enhance information on hospitalized HCP cases, we plan to collect the unique patient identification number(s) from COVID-NET to enable data linkage.

We estimate these changes will add two minutes to the previously approved burden for this data collection instrument. The previous burden calculated for “Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2” form was 2,300 hours. As a result of the changes proposed in this change memo, the burden for this form will increase by 233 hours to 2,543 hours.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of Respondents | Form Name | Number of Respondents | Number of Responses per Respondent | Average Burden per Response (in hours) | Total Burden (in hours) |
| Healthcare Personnel | Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2 Form  Or  Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2: Possible Reinfection Form | 4,000 | 1 | 32/60 | 2,133 |
| Occupational Health Nurses at Healthcare Facilities | No form | 50 | 24 | 15/60 | 300 |
| Occupational Health Nurses at Healthcare Facilities | Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2: Denominator Form | 50 | 6 | 20/60 | 100 |
| Total |  | | | | 2,533 |

Attachments:

1. Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2 Form
2. Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2: Possible Reinfection Form
3. Assessment of Healthcare Personnel Exposed to or Infected with SARS-CoV-2: Denominator Form
4. Emerging Infections Program Tracking of SARS-CoV-2 Infections among Healthcare Personnel” Protocol (version: July 14, 2020)