

## *Annex 8: Strategies to Limit Transmission*

### **Overall comment.**

This section would benefit from including details presented in the WHO document attached (pages 20-29, especially the tables 26-29). The WHO document specifies clearly what measures are effective, and which ones are not. Stating what should NOT be done is as important as stating what should be done, so that valuable resources are not diverted to activities that are unhelpful.

### **Specific comments:**

## **II. Background**

The **amount of virus shed ??? IS HIGHER???** **LOWER???** and the length of time of viral shedding may be prolonged during initial infection with a new influenza subtype. Need to specify what happens to the AMOUNT of virus—does it get higher or lower (I assume higher)

## **B. Transmission and Infection Control Strategies in Healthcare Settings**

### **Routes of influenza transmission**

#### *Direct and indirect contact transmission*

Direct transmission involves direct body-to-body surface contact. Indirect transmission occurs via contact with contaminated intermediate objects such as contaminated hands or inanimate objects such **as needles** or countertops. To introduce the term “Needles” here is confusing—these often cause percutaneous exposures—and would be classified as something different than indirect contact

#### *Droplet transmission*

Droplet transmission occurs when contagious droplets produced by the infected host are propelled a short distance through coughing or sneezing and can come into contact with another person’s conjunctiva, mouth or nasal mucosa. Since these droplets generally are large (greater **than 10 micrograms** and do not stay suspended in the air, this mode of transmission is not affected by special air handling or control of room pressures.

#### *Droplet nuclei (airborne) transmission*

This entails the production of infectious droplet nuclei, generally **5 micrograms** or less in diameter. In contrast with larger droplets, these droplets can remain suspended in the air and be disseminated by air currents in a room or through a facility to be inhaled by a susceptible host. Preventing the spread of droplet nuclei requires the use of special air handling and ventilation procedures. The size is measured in micrometers not micrograms (grams is a WEIGHT measure)