

GHS2026 Conference Workshops

***Day One - Tuesday 9 2026, 4pm-6pm
Room 401***

Should Parents Be There? - Building a Caregiver Presence Framework for Pediatric High-Consequence Infectious Disease Care

Aim & Objectives:

This workshop examines caregiver presence during pediatric HCID care — a policy gap with significant implications for child welfare, family-centered care, and infection control in biocontainment settings.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Identify the clinical, ethical, and logistical tensions that arise when caregivers request presence during isolation of a critically ill child
- Articulate the competing priorities facing health security professionals, pediatric clinicians, and administrators in real-world HCID scenarios
- Apply a structured decision-making framework to evaluate caregiver presence policy at their own institutions
- Leave with a draft personal policy framework adaptable to their national or institutional context

Target audience:

Health security professionals, pediatric and emergency clinicians, infection prevention and control specialists, hospital administrators, and public health authorities involved in HCID preparedness — including patient distribution and regional coordination. Particularly relevant for participants who may receive pediatric patients during an HCID event or play a role in determining where such patients are directed. No prior pediatric clinical background is required.