

Infection Prevention and Control Policy

Introduction

Cystic Fibrosis WA (CFWA) run events for members of the CF community. The health, safety and wellbeing of everyone at these events is of great importance. This policy provides information that should be considered before deciding to attend an event conducted by CFWA.

Some bacteria, viruses and fungi that commonly infect people with CF can be transmitted from one person to another. If you (or any children under 18 years of age who will attend the event with your permission) have CF, there is a real, serious and inherent risk that by attending the event you (or your children) could be exposed to pathogens (disease-causing organisms) that might severely harm you (or your children's) health.

These pathogens could include (but are not limited to):

- Burkholderia cepacia complex
- Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus
- Pseudomonas aeruginosa
- Non-tuberculous mycobacterium (NTM)
- Human respiratory syncytial virus
- Human parainfluenza viruses
- Influenza viruses
- Other pathogens that are currently unknown.

For people with CF, exposure to these pathogens could lead to serious illness, injury or even death.

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers and event participants and will be made available to all potential attendees prior to an event. This policy also applies to members of the CF community who do not have CF, as any person with an infection can pose a risk to the health of people with CF.

Recommendations

There is no reliable way to completely eliminate the risk of cross-infection. To reduce the risk of cross-infection, the following recommendations are offered as a guide:

1. Anyone who has signs of cold, flu, respiratory or gastrointestinal illness is asked not to attend the event or to leave the event if they develop any signs or symptoms during the event.
2. Anyone who believes they may have an infection that could be harmful to other people is asked not to attend the event.
3. The latest research suggests that people with CF should avoid close or prolonged contact with each other and endeavour to maintain a minimum distance of 4m from each other at all times.
4. Everyone at the event should practice good public health hygiene. Always cover your mouth and nose with your elbow when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of used tissues in a covered container.
5. Always wash and dry your hands, or use alcohol hand sanitiser, after coughing, sneezing, touching your mouth or nose, and before eating.
6. Do not share any items such as eating or drinking utensils, food serving utensils, toothbrushes, nebulisers or equipment, particularly with people with CF.
7. Other high-risk activities include: prolonged time in small poorly ventilated areas including cars; use of communal exercise facilities; handling multi-use soap bars; shaking hands or sharing hotel rooms with other individuals with CF.

NB - For enclosed events, a signed waiver may be required, however, for outdoor events it is understood that you have acknowledged the terms and conditions of this policy when registering for such events.

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Disclaimer: The information contained herein is provided in good faith. However accuracy of any statements is not guaranteed by Cystic Fibrosis Australia. We provide the information on the understanding that persons take responsibility for assessing relevance and accuracy. Individuals are encouraged to discuss their health needs with a health practitioner.

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