

Cross Infection at Events Fact Sheet

Guidance for people with cystic fibrosis who wish to attend the CF Conference

All people with cystic fibrosis who wish to attend the CF Conference should be familiar with the CFNZ cross infection policy and the procedures that relate to indoor and outdoor meeting areas.

This fact sheet covers:

1. Cross infection policy
2. Indoor procedures
3. Outdoor procedures
4. Checklist of requirements
5. Cross infection at events waiver

Cross Infection Policy

CFNZ periodically runs meetings and events, both indoors and outdoors, for a variety of purposes. This policy provides guidance regarding the attendance at such functions by PWCF and applies to PWCF attending CFNZ meetings.

This policy recognises that PWCF can infect each other with bacteria because of their proximity to each other in indoor settings and with slightly reduced risk at outdoor events.

Furthermore, it recognises the following key facts with regard to cross infection:

- There are currently no foolproof tests that will 100% guarantee the culture status of PWCF. Whilst most testing is reasonably accurate, 100% accuracy cannot be guaranteed.
- Time is also a factor from time of testing to when the event / meeting takes place. A test may be 'clear' yet during the period between testing and event bacteria may be acquired.
- There are various bacteria, such as pandemic pseudomonas, that cannot be tested for in New Zealand but which present

a significant risk to PWCF who may choose to be near each other.

- The protocols and recommendations such as hand-washing, anti-bacterial gel use, safe disposal of tissues, safe coughing and distance rules are all, in themselves, no guarantee that a new organism will not be acquired during such a meeting

CFNZ wishes to provide the maximum protection for all PWCF, whilst preserving the PWCFs right to self-determination.

Indoor Procedures

PWCF will be informed, in writing, of all the risks inherent in attending CFNZ indoor meetings where others with CF may be present. Furthermore, PWCF shall be discouraged from attending such meetings but shall not be specifically prohibited from doing so.

- Whilst PWCF will not be banned from attending, they will be asked to sign an acknowledgement that demonstrates that

they have read and understood the risks if they do choose to attend.

- CFNZ will no longer assist AWCF to attend conference by waiving registration fees.
- The Jono Fowler Scholarship for adult attendance at conference will no longer be available.
- Branches will be asked to ensure AWCF in their area who have indicated a desire to attend conference are well aware of the risks.
- PWCF who attend meetings will be asked to provide a Doctor's letter, dated not more than three weeks prior to the conference, stating that, to the best of their knowledge, their patient has not and is not carrying MRSA or Burkholderia Cepacia, or non-tuberculosis mycobacterium in the previous two years.
- PWCF attending meetings will be required to wear an identifying badge, wristband or lanyard and maintain a 1.5 metre distance from all other PWCF. Refusal will lead to the individual being denied access to the meeting / event.
- PWCF who do choose to attend meetings or events will be encouraged to use safe greeting methods with ALL other attendees, CF and non-CF (hugs and handshakes are not considered safe).
- Smaller meetings such as branch meetings or smaller national governance meetings etc. will set up a system whereby only one PWCF will attend at any one meeting.
- For the CF Conference PWCF who are invited to speak or be part of a panel will be assured that there is a period of time between other speakers who have CF (at least one hour) and that they are aware of other PWCF who have been tested and have signed the waiver, are attending the conference. CFNZ appreciate and acknowledge the importance for our parent community to hear from AWCF.
- A waiver is to be completed by all PWCF attending conferences.

Outdoor Procedures

PWCF attending CFNZ events held outdoors, will be fully informed of all attendant risks as above and will be encouraged to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Maintain a 1.5 metre distance from all other people with CF
- Wear a readily identifiable badge / wristband or lanyard
- Wash hands frequently and make use of hand sanitiser as provided.
- Safely dispose of tissues and employ safe coughing protocols.

Checklist of Requirements

All PWCF wanting to attend the CF Conference are required to:

- **Provide a Doctor's letter**, dated not more than three weeks prior to the conference, stating that, to the best of their knowledge, their patient has not and is not carrying MRSA or Burkholderia Cepacia, or non-tuberculosis mycobacterium in the previous two years.
- If testing is required, it **must occur on or after 17 March 2017**.
- **Sign the cross infection waiver** and return with a doctor's letter to CFNZ by 31 March 2017.

Cross Infection at Events Waiver

The following protocols are in place to minimise the risk of cross infection:

- People with CF who wish to attend the conference must provide a doctors letter stating that, to the best of their knowledge, their patient has not and is not carrying MRSA or Burkholderia Cepacia, or non-tuberculosis mycobacterium in the previous two years. It is likely your doctor will require you to be tested for these bacteria.
- The doctor's letter is to be dated not more 3 weeks prior to conference, i.e. on or after 17 March 2017 and the doctor's letter should be sent to CFNZ no later than Friday 31 March 2017.
- Failure to supply your doctor's letter prior to the conference will mean that you CANNOT be admitted under any circumstances.
- We strongly recommend that adults actively follow up on their tests/doctor's letter to ensure there are no unnecessary delays. Ensuring that the doctor's letter are sent to us in good time is YOUR responsibility. Please do NOT rely on nursing staff to follow up on this for you.
- Hygiene guidelines will be available and particular attention given to hand-washing facilities and hygienic rubbish disposal bins. Sterigel will be available at all times.
- All people with CF who attend the conference will be required to wear an identifying badge, wristband or lanyard (provided by CFNZ) and maintain a 1.5 metre distance from all other people with CF.
- All people with CF are encouraged to play a responsible role in maintaining a safe environment for other people with CF.

I have read and understood the information provided in the Cross Infection at Events Fact Sheet. I understand that attending the CF Conference 2017 will carry potential risks for my health and I do so at my own risk:

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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