

Infection Control Policy

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document sets out Cystic Fibrosis Australia Limited's and all Australian Cystic Fibrosis State and Territory organisations' (collectively, 'CFA Bodies', individually, 'CFA Body') policy position and guiding principles on cross infection.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 CFA Bodies recommend that certain information should be considered before a person decides to attend an event conducted by any CFA Body. Events are open to all members of the cystic fibrosis (CF) community, including people with CF, family members of people with CF, and CF community supporters. These events are intended to provide enjoyment, recreation, education, to make decisions and provide an opportunity for people from the CF community to meet. The health, safety and wellbeing of everyone at these events is of great importance.

2.2 This policy applies equally to employees, volunteers and event participants.

2.3 CFA Bodies:

- (a) will ensure that the Policy Statement set out in Schedule A will be made available to all potential attendees prior to any event;
- (b) may ask attendees to sign a document/s:
 - (i) acknowledging that the attendee understands the risks of attending the event, broadly having the content set out in Schedule B ('Risk Waiver'), as amended for the circumstances; and
 - (ii) waiving liability, releasing the CFA Body and organisers and indemnifying them, broadly having the content set out in Schedule C ('Deed Poll'), as amended for the circumstances.

3. REVIEW OF POLICY

3.1 The CF Federation Leadership Group must review this Policy on at least an annual basis, or where a CFA Body specifically requests due to changes in circumstance, clinical practice or other emergent issues requiring it to be considered more quickly, as required.

3.2 Following that review, each CF Body will formally refer this Policy for adoption by its governing body.

4. ADOPTION

This Policy was formally adopted by each CFA Body on the date set out on the cover page.

Schedule A: Policy Statement

This policy provides information that should be considered before deciding to attend an event conducted by or on behalf of any Australian state or territory cystic fibrosis organisation. Events are open to all members of the cystic fibrosis (CF) community, including people with CF, family members of people with CF, and CF community supporters. These events are intended to provide enjoyment, recreation, education, to make decisions and provide an opportunity for people from the CF community to meet.

The health, safety and wellbeing of everyone at these events is of great importance. This policy applies equally to employees, volunteers and event participants and will be made available to all potential attendees prior to the event. This policy applies to members of the CF community who do not themselves have CF, because it is important to recognise that you will pose a risk to people with CF if you have an infection, and can therefore seriously compromise other event attendees with CF.

If attending an event you may be asked to sign a document acknowledging that you understand the risks of attending, as well as a waiver, release of liability and indemnification in favour of the relevant CFA Body/ies, and/or the event organisers, where required.

Some of the bacteria, viruses and fungi that commonly infect people 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, human respiratory syncytial virus, human parainfluenza viruses, influenza viruses or other pathogens that are currently unknown. For people with CF, exposure to these pathogens could lead to serious illness, injury or even death.

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. People with CF should avoid close or prolonged contact with each other during the event and endeavour to maintain a minimum distance of 1m from each other at all times. However, in small enclosed spaces, the latest research suggests, and CFA endorses, a minimum of 4 metres.
4. Everyone at the event should practice good public health hygiene. Always cover your mouth and nose 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 personal 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.

Schedule B: Risk Waiver

Acknowledgement of risks:

I acknowledge that:

- I have read this policy;
- If I have CF, then by attending this event I may risk exposure to pathogens that could cause serious damage to my health and may result in:
 - A new and potentially untreatable infection or other condition in my body;
 - The exacerbation of an existing infection or other condition in my body; and/or
 - My death.
- It is not possible for the Organiser to eliminate all risk; and
- I have chosen to attend this event despite the risks of infection.

Name (print):	Date:	Signature:
Witness Name (print):	Date:	Signature:

Schedule C: Deed Poll

Release from Liability

I release the Organiser and each of its Related Persons from all claims and liabilities related to, connected with, or arising from infection risk at this event.

Indemnity

If I allow a minor (person under 18) to attend this event, whether in my comp[any or otherwise, I indemnify the Organiser and each of its Related Persons in respect of any claim or liability related to, connected with, or arising from, the risk of infection to that minor.

Name (print):	Date:	Signature:
Witness Name (print):	Date:	Signature: