

July 5, 2011

Dear Members of the Canadian CF Community,

Please find attached the revised Infection Control Policy, and additional materials, for Cystic Fibrosis Canada's sponsored events and meetings. These were approved by your Executive Committee on June 4, 2011.

Adults and children with CF are valued members of Cystic Fibrosis Canada and of the CF community at large. The input of people with cystic fibrosis is essential to our advocacy work and also differentiates our cause significantly. We are committed to exploring all possible means of permitting your continued participation – short of personal attendance.

Cystic Fibrosis Canada is also investing \$170,000 into a new research initiative investigating transmissible *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in the Canadian CF population. It is our hope that new evidence from this initiative will help inform future infection control practice and policy during the M/SAC Clinic Subcommittee's annual review.

As you know, some adults and children with cystic fibrosis who acquire *Burkholderia cepacia* complex, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and transmissible *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* complex suffer very serious health consequences. Furthermore, these pathogens can be transmitted from one individual to another. While this policy may seem overly cautious, the intent is to minimize any adverse health risks to our members.

As such, this policy was adopted after considerable discussion and review of all available scientific data and the policies of other jurisdictions and countries. These new recommendations were based on the expert opinion of our Medical/Scientific Advisory Committee (M/SAC) and were reviewed by an Infection Control Task Force, comprised of international medical experts and CF community stakeholders.

While this presents a challenging period of time for people with cystic fibrosis and to all involved in our journey for a cure, it is not an insurmountable barrier. We will find ways to integrate the valued input of our CF community, we will tackle this challenge with the same tenacity that has proven successful to date, and we will turn the corner.

I ask for your patience and continued commitment to find a cure. The health and safety of our CF community is our priority.

Sincerely,



Maureen Adamson  
Chief Executive Officer