

Brussels, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

## Covid-19 and CF – Update

In order to evaluate quickly how Covid-19 affects people with CF, the whole European CF community is mobilised to collect data in a reliable and systematic fashion. CF Europe is having regular (virtual) meetings with the European Cystic Fibrosis Society (ECFS), the ECFS patient registry (ECFSPR), the ECFS clinical trial network (CTN) and patient representatives from all over Europe. The **global harmonisation group**, which gathers the CF **registries** of the EU, US and Canada, organises the collection of long term data.

In parallel, the **ECFS-CTN** started to carry out regular surveys within the various sites of the CTN, which represent a total of 58 sites in 17 countries throughout Europe. The objective is to get a weekly picture of **how COVID19 is impacting the performance of clinical trials in CF**. In parallel CTN also gathers some **general information on CF patients positive for COVID19**. Last week, 43 sites from 12 countries sent an update regarding the impact of the epidemic on the clinical trials carried out at their centres and the few cases of people with CF that were tested positive for Covid-19 at their site. Most of them received guidance from their hospital authorities and study sponsors, advising how to implement contingency plans for ongoing clinical trials.

### 1. Impact on clinical trials

In most cases, **recruitment of new patients into clinical trials** has been put **on hold** but **patients already enrolled in trials can continue to participate**. Clinical sites are implementing alternative solutions to site visits of patients such as telephone consultations or study drugs being delivered to the patients' homes. Initiation of **new clinical trials** is currently **on hold** except for extension/rollover studies that allow patients to continue treatment with study compounds such as CFTR modulators.

### 2. Covid-19 in people with CF

Amongst the 43 centres that replied to the survey, **9 sites reported 16 cases of CF patients tested positive for Covid-19** since the beginning of the epidemic. Contrary to what could be reasonably feared, most of the feedback received so far indicated a mild disease manifestation in people with CF. However, these findings must be considered very carefully and may evolve quickly. Most of the people filling in the survey were not aware of the situation at the national level and **information remains very fragmentary**. All organisations are collaborating to quickly collate a scientifically sound database; various possibilities are currently being explored.

The small number of Covid-19 cases recorded amongst people with CF may be thanks to the good hygiene habits within the CF community. And whilst there is **yet no sign of the virus causing more severe infection in CF patients** than in the general population, we ask you to please **remain cautious, do keep on applying social shielding and stick to your good health habits!**