

Infectious Disease and Illness Policy & Procedures

Policy Name	Infectious Disease and Illness Policy & Procedures
Previously	<i>COVID-19 Policy and Procedures for In-Person Events</i>
Effective Date	1 December 2020
Date Last Reviewed	June 2024
Scheduled Review Date	June 2025
Responsible Person	CEO

Summary of Key Points

Policy Purpose and Scope

- **Purpose:** This policy aims to ensure the health and safety of NYSF staff, participants, volunteers, and hosts during In-Person Events in response to an Infectious Disease or Illness.
- **Scope:** The policy applies to NYSF employees, volunteers, program participants, hosts, and event attendees at any NYSF event, program, or activity that is held in-person or face-to-face, including residential programs.
- **Government Directives:** This policy may be overridden by government directives and laws, which take precedence. Government websites should be referred to for up-to-date information on health regulations.

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements:

- **Employees and Volunteers:** NYSF employees and volunteers must provide proof of up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination (as recommended by the [Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)), and it is a condition of employment or volunteering. Failure to do so may result in alternative duties or termination.

- **Program Participants, Hosts, and Event Attendees:** NYSF does not require proof of vaccination for entry, but attendees must comply with federal, state/territory, and host vaccination requirements. Vaccination status may be collected for enrolment purposes.

Procedures:

- **Measures Taken by NYSF:** NYSF will provide a safe environment, information, and facilities for hygiene. It will integrate health and safety into decision-making, monitor health issues, and take health concerns seriously.
- **Measures Taken by Attendees:** Attendees must follow this policy, take care of their health and others', cooperate with NYSF and hosts, observe social distancing, not attend if unwell, follow quarantine and testing requirements, and practice good hygiene.
- **Infectious Disease or Illness: Diagnosis or Symptoms:** In the case of an infectious disease or illness diagnosis, or display of symptoms which, in the opinion of NYSF staff, is indicative of an infectious disease or illness, attendees must inform NYSF, not attend In-Person Events, and follow government advice. They can return to events after their exclusion period has ended. Refer to Appendix 1 for exclusion periods.
- **Infectious Disease or Illness at Residential Programs:** Special measures are in place for residential programs to minimise transmission of an infectious disease or illness. Early departure due to illness does not result in refunds and families are advised to organise travel insurance.
- **Travel:** Use of private transport to travel to and from programs is encouraged, but if not possible, attendees should follow state/territory health guidelines.
- **Preventative Measures:** All attendees should take preventative measures to avoid the transmission of an infectious disease or illness, including maintaining distance, avoiding physical contact, and following hygiene practices, including handwashing and using hand sanitiser. Attendees must wear masks if mandated by the government, event venue hosts, or NYSF. Close contacts may need to be isolated or sent home. Refer to Appendix 1 for guidelines.
- **Failure to Comply:** Failure to follow the policy may result in removal from the event.

Policy

Purpose

1. NYSF takes the welfare and well-being of our staff, participants, volunteers, and hosts seriously. This policy outlines NYSF's policies and procedures to ensure the health and safety of any participants, staff, volunteers, and hosts involved in NYSF In-Person Events in response to an infectious disease or illness.
2. "In-Person Event" refers to any NYSF event, program, or activity that is held in-person or face-to-face, including residential programs.
3. This policy and procedures apply to NYSF employees, volunteers, program participants, hosts, and other event attendees.

Government Directives and the Law

4. This policy represents NYSF's approach to responding to an infectious disease or illness. However, this policy is in all respects subject to any overriding government directive or law. For example, if the government mandates that you must remain at home and gatherings are not permitted, then such directive overrides this policy.
5. We refer you to the various government websites (both federal and state/territory) which contain up to date information on government policies.
6. In addition to government regulations and this policy and procedures, all persons must abide by any additional health rules set by individual event or visit hosts, transport operators, accommodation or catering providers.
7. Details of all state and territory government health departments where you can find information on current health rules can be accessed on the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care website: www.health.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/local-state-and-territory-health-departments

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

Employees and Volunteers

8. Up to date COVID-19 vaccination, as recommended by the [Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#), is a condition of employment with the NYSF or volunteering at NYSF In-Person Events.
9. NYSF requires proof of up-to-date vaccination status of employees and volunteers for workforce planning and for health and safety purposes. Employees and volunteers come into contact with a large group of attendees at In-Person Events and often travel between multiple events and locations in a short period of time. NYSF considers vaccination as an important factor in our Infectious Disease and Illness Policy.
10. Employees and volunteers may decline to provide proof of vaccination to NYSF. In this case, NYSF will endeavour to provide alternative duties at its discretion and subject to operational and practical requirements. However, employees and volunteers who choose not to provide proof of up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination need to be mindful that this may ultimately result in termination of employment or engagement.
11. Please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#) for more information about how we handle and protect your personal information, including vaccination information.
12. There are some exemptions to the requirement to be vaccinated. If employees or volunteers consider themselves to have a valid exemption, please contact nysf@nysf.edu.au.

Program Participants, Hosts, and other Event Attendees

13. NYSF does not require proof of COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of entry to NYSF events for participants, hosts, or other event attendees. However, all attendees must comply with vaccination requirements of the federal government, the relevant state/territory, and the host of the premises where an In-Person Event is located.
14. For this reason, the best way to avoid exclusion from In-Person Events is to be vaccinated.

15. Program participants, hosts, and other event attendees may be required to show proof of up-to-date vaccination to enter the premises of an In-Person Event if vaccination is required by the federal government, the relevant state/territory, or by the host of the premises where the event is located.
16. NYSF will monitor COVID-19 vaccination requirements and advise of any requirements for In-Person Events as soon as practicably possible. It is noted that federal, state/territory, and premises vaccination requirements are likely to change over time. As you would appreciate, the NYSF cannot control the requirements of our hosts, and we cannot make exceptions to their policies. The NYSF will endeavour to advise participants, hosts, and other event attendees of any changes in vaccine requirements prior to the event and as early as possible.
17. Where possible, we will ask that the host handles vaccination requirements with participants or attendees directly, meaning you will not need to provide NYSF with proof of vaccination. However, we may need to collect proof of your vaccination status for the purpose of enrolling you in a specific In-Person Event if the host, content providers, or relevant state government requires attendees to be vaccinated. If you do not consent to providing your vaccination status, you may not be able to enrol in that event. Where required, we will share your vaccination status with our hosts.
18. Please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#) for more information about how we handle and protect your personal information, including vaccination information.
19. NYSF may offer digital alternatives to some In-Person Events, which can be attended by those who are not vaccinated or those who are unable to provide proof of vaccination, should vaccination be required by the federal government, the relevant state/territory, or the premises where the event is located.

Procedures

Measures taken by NYSF

20. To promote the health and safety of those participating in In-Person Events, NYSF will:
 - Endeavour to provide and maintain a safe environment during the In-Person Events for all staff, participants, volunteers, and hosts;
 - Provide information, instructions and supervision so far as we can to promote health and safety;
 - Provide access to adequate facilities to practise good hygiene;
 - Integrate work health and safety issues and risk management processes into all of our decision making and risk analysis;
 - Put in place mechanisms for monitoring work health and safety issues; and
 - Take any health concerns raised by you seriously.

Measures taken by Attendees

21. While participating in any In-Person Event hosted by the NYSF and its partners, you must:
 - Follow all aspects of this policy;
 - Take reasonable care to ensure your own health and safety, and that of other participants, volunteers, staff, and visit hosts;

- Not place others at risk or jeopardise the safety of the environment by any act or omission, such as participating in an event while unwell;
- Follow any procedures or protocols that we, the visit host organisation or NYSF group leader on the day, implement at any time;
- Cooperate with NYSF and the visit host organisation to meet our statutory work health and safety obligations;
- Observe social distancing where possible;
- Not attend an In-Person Event if you feel unwell;
- Not attend an In-Person Event if you are required to isolate or quarantine in accordance with government directives;
- Not attend an In-Person Event if you have had a test for an infection disease or illness and not yet received a negative result;
- Practise cough etiquette (cough away from other people; cough or sneeze into your elbow; sanitise your hands after sneezing or coughing on them); and
- Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly.

Infectious Disease or Illness Diagnosis or Symptoms

22. If you are diagnosed with an infectious disease or illness, you must:

- Immediately inform the NYSF;
- Not attend an NYSF In-Person Event under any circumstances; and
- Follow any relevant government advice.

23. If you think that you may have symptoms of an infectious disease or illness or are awaiting results of a test, you should immediately do the following:

- Inform the NYSF;
- Not attend an NYSF In-Person Event under any circumstances;
- Isolate, and wait for the results (if applicable). Continue to follow government and medical advice.
- You should not attend an In-Person Event until you have completed the exclusion period. Refer to Appendix 1 for details.

24. If you are feeling unwell while at an NYSF In-Person Event, you must immediately notify your group leader (this may be an NYSF staff member, an NYSF Rotary volunteer, or an NYSF Student Staff volunteer). If NYSF forms a reasonable view that you are unwell, you will be directed to isolate or depart the program. The group leader will inform NYSF that a member of the group is feeling unwell and has been sent home. NYSF will work with the event hosts to determine if the visit can resume.

25. You are welcome to return to NYSF In-Person Events if you have completed your exclusion period and requirements. Refer to Appendix 1 for details.

Infectious Disease or Illness at Residential Programs

26. NYSF recognises the increased risk of transmission of an infectious disease or illness during residential programs.

27. To minimise the likelihood of transmission between program participants, staff, volunteers, and other program stakeholders, including vulnerable attendees, NYSF will take appropriate measures in response to attendees displaying symptoms of an infectious disease or illness. Such measures may include:

- Mandatory testing (where applicable test exists);
- Isolation in Program accommodation until departure or until symptoms resolve (where departure cannot be easily arranged);
- Departure from the Program at earliest convenience, in consultation with parent/guardian and having regard for the health and safety of the attendee;
- Provision of available appropriate medical care, including medical consultation.

28. Where a participant departs from a program early due to symptoms or diagnosis of an infectious disease or illness, or does not fully participate in the program, no refund of any program fee or reimbursement for any costs incurred will be made. For this reason, the NYSF encourages families to consider taking out travel insurance.

Travel

29. We encourage staff, participants, volunteers, and hosts to minimise their use of public transport to travel to and from NYSF In-Person Events as is practicable. At all times, travel must comply with any state, territory, or federal government restrictions.

30. If you choose to travel to and from an NYSF in-person program event, we encourage you to travel by means of private transport to limit the potential of contracting an infectious disease or illness.

31. If you are unable to travel to and from an event by means of private transport, please always use appropriate social distancing and hygiene practices as advised by your state or territory health department.

Preventative Measures

Social distancing and good hygiene

32. Whilst at an NYSF event we encourage social distancing:

- Maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres between you and others wherever possible in your group, including when walking, standing, and when eating;
- Do not shake hands or hug to greet others;
- Enjoy social time during a visit in the open air or somewhere with good ventilation;
- Promote good hand washing, sneeze, and cough hygiene;
- Use hand sanitiser frequently (before and after eating, using the toilet, touching surfaces in public areas, and coughing or sneezing);
- Limit food handling and do not share food.

33. Hand sanitiser and soap will be available at most host sites; however, you are strongly advised to carry your own supply.

Hand washing

34. Washing your hands is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs:

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap;
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails;

- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice;
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water; and
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Face masks

35. Face masks provide an extra layer of protection against infectious diseases or illnesses.
36. In settings where face masks are government mandated or are a requirement of the event venue host, all attendees must wear an appropriate face mask per the government or venue host requirements.
37. In settings where face masks are not required, individuals may choose to wear a face mask for their personal protection. NYSF respects the right of any person to wear a face mask, and will support them to do so, including providing them with the opportunity self-exclude from any activities which require removal of masks.

Failure to Comply

38. Any person attending an In-Person Event who fails to follow this policy and any further directives relating to this policy may be asked to leave the event and return home.

Contact

39. You can discuss this policy with the NYSF via nysf@nysf.edu.au. You should also refer to your NYSF agreement for information about how an infectious disease or illness may affect your attendance at a specific program.

Appendix 1 – Infectious Disease and Illness Exclusion Requirements

40. The below table outlines the exclusion requirements for common infectious diseases and illnesses and less-common infectious diseases and illnesses with specific exclusion requirements. For infectious diseases and illnesses not listed below, advice on exclusion periods should be sought by a medical practitioner.

Condition	Exclusion period for person with condition	Exclusion of close contacts
Chickenpox	Exclude until all blisters have dried, approximately 5 days.	Exclude anyone with immune deficiencies (e.g., leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy, for their own protection.
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until all discharge from eyes has ceased.	Not excluded
COVID-19	Exclude until a negative test result and your symptoms have resolved.	Monitor for symptoms and test if symptoms present.
Diarrhoeal Illness	Exclude until vomiting and diarrhoea has ceased for 48 hours, if an outbreak of gastroenteritis. Or after	Not excluded

	24 hours for all other diarrhoeal illnesses.	
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses	Exclude until well.	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer.
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of rash.	Unimmunised contact should be excluded until 14 days after the first appearance of a rash.
Meningococcal Infection	Exclude until after treatment is completed.	Not excluded if receiving carrier eradication therapy.
Mumps	Exclude for 5 days, or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).	Not excluded
Poliovirus Infection	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Can re-admit after receiving a medical certificate of recovery.	Not excluded
Rubella (German Measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or 4 days after the onset of rash.	Not excluded
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	Exclude until a medical certificate is produced.	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer.
Tuberculosis (excluding latent tuberculosis)	Exclude until a medical certificate is produced, stating that the individual is no longer considered infectious.	Not excluded
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Exclude until 5 days after an appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing.	Not excluded
Worms	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased for at least 24 hours.	Not excluded