Get the facts about **CYSTIC FIBROSIS**

MYTHS BUSTED

Cystic fibrosis is contagious.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that is inherited from parents. It occurs predominantly in Caucasian (White) populations. When both parents are carriers, there is a 25% chance it will lead to cystic fibrosis in a child.

Only people with cystic fibrosis have the gene that causes the disease.

The gene responsible for cystic fibrosis is called the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene. Everyone has 2 CFTR genes – not just people with CF. But in people with CF, these two genes mutate, preventing CFTR protein cells from acting normally and causing a thickening of mucus in the lungs, digestive system and possibly other organs. Over 2,000 mutations of the CFTR gene have been discovered.

Cystic fibrosis is hard to diagnose early.

Hospitals in all 50 states now screen infants for cystic fibrosis. Early diagnosis of CF translates into early treatment, which can help patients avoid some of the complications of the disease.

Cystic fibrosis is a disease of childhood.

Roughly 60% of all current cases of cystic fibrosis in the U.S. are in adults. Because life expectancy is longer, there are more people who were diagnosed with CF as children who are living well into their adulthood.

People with cystic fibrosis die young.

Thanks to early diagnosis and new treatments, people born with cystic fibrosis today may live into their 40s and 50s.

Cystic fibrosis only affects the lungs.

Cystic fibrosis affects more than just the lungs. As it progresses, it can impact the liver, pancreas, intestines, kidneys, sinuses, bones and reproductive systems.

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To learn more about cystic fibrosis go to **chestfoundation.org/cf**

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