

# School Toolkit

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## I. Why World PI Week?

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World PI Week's overarching mission is to raise awareness of the importance of primary immunodeficiency (PI) diseases globally and stimulate efforts to improve the recognition, diagnosis, treatment and the quality of life for people with PI world-wide.

The first World PI Week will be celebrated on **22-29 April 2011** and will focus on **increasing the understanding of these diseases and promoting optimal diagnosis.**

World PI Week offers a crucial, visible opportunity to inform and educate health policy-makers, schools and families, and the general public about primary immunodeficiencies (PI) to drive the earliest possible diagnosis and optimal treatment. Through events and activities promoting the **warning signs of PI**, seminars, public lectures, video-diaries, and press conferences, the global PI community can unite to bring about positive changes in healthcare systems and practices around the world in support of people living with PI.

For more detailed information about PI Week please visit the website: [www.worldpiweek.org](http://www.worldpiweek.org)

## II. How to support students with PI?

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Communication between school personnel, parents and students diagnosed with primary immunodeficiency diseases is of the utmost importance. It is essential for family members or school staff to initiate a meeting before the school year begins and maintain regular communication throughout the year. In some cases, it may be helpful for school personnel to speak directly with the student's healthcare provider for additional information, provided consent has been obtained from the student's parent or guardian.

The school should look to develop a support team of school staff to learn about the child's particular primary immunodeficiency disease and needs, these could include the school nurse, guidance counselor, principal or administrator etc. Along with the parents, the school should identify and agree to the necessary steps to take to ensure a positive school experience for the child. These could include:

For Teachers:

- Learn about the student's primary immunodeficiency disease, provide support to the student
- Provide appropriate classroom accommodations/modifications to the student
- Provide information for substitute teachers
- Treat the student the same as other students
- Respect each student's confidentiality and right to privacy

### School Nurses

- Learn about the student's primary immunodeficiency disease
- Facilitate the initial healthcare team meeting
- Obtain and review the student's healthcare information from the healthcare provider and family
- Obtain necessary medication and supplies from the parents, if needed



- Provide education and act as a resource to school personnel
- Notify the parents promptly if there is an outbreak of a contagious illness in the child's classroom or school
- Obtain parental permission to act as the liaison between the school and the student's healthcare provider

### III. Ideas for Events

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- Distribute illustrative children's books in class on PI to educate fellow students
- Read illustrative children's books in class on PI to educate students regarding the disease
- Play interactive games, quizzes on PI and use coloring books during World PI Week to highlight the immune system
- Incorporate a lesson on PI in a science class during PI week
- Organize a fundraiser and/or sports activity
- Distribute posters and leaflets on PI Awareness

### IV. World PI Week Tools

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Below is a list of the types of documents and guidance that you can find via the World PI Week Website to help you maximize your activities in your schools and communities:

- **PI Leaflet:** *provides information on PI, what it is, how to treat it, how to live with it*
- **Activities/Quizzes/Books:** *Interactive games, books and quizzes for students to learn about PI*
- **Campaign ideas:** *Message boards with events from around the globe to inspire*
- **How to support students with PI**
- **JMF 10 Warning Signs of PI for adults**
- **JMF Immune System poster:** *To prepare schools, teachers, nurses and parents for students living with PI*

### V. World PI Week – Central Committee Contact Details

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For further support with regards your participation in World PI Week, please feel free to contact

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