About IDF Common Ground

IDF Common Ground was designed as a private social network and discussion forum only for teens who live with primary immunodeficiencies (PI). This online community gives teens affected by PI the opportunity to offer and receive peer support, ask questions, make suggestions, share their stories, and connect with others.

Once you login to the site, there is a helpful "How To Get Started" guide available for your reference when getting to know the new site. There is also a “FAQs” page, and a “Contact Us” page if you have specific questions on how to use the site.

Site Features

Profile Pages
Every user has a profile page, and you can access all of the following from your profile page:

- Messages – compose, view and answer private messages
- Friends – view friends and manage friend requests
- Groups – view the groups you have joined and respond to invites
- Gallery – create and add to your media galleries
- Forums – access your forum subscriptions and follow your posts
- Activity – share your status updates and follow your activity
- Profile – see and edit info, and change your avatar (profile picture)
- Settings – change your password

Discussion Forums and Group Forums
One of the most popular features on the site is the Discussion Forum. This is a message board with sections created by IDF, where teens can hold conversations, ask questions and post messages. The current sections are:

- Coping With a New Diagnosis: Share your experiences and feelings about being newly diagnosed with a PI.
- Living with PI: Ask and answer questions about the day to day challenges of living with PI.
- Therapy and Treatment: Share experiences, good and bad, with your IG therapy.
- School Issues: Ask and answer questions about school situations as they relate to having PI.
- What’s On Your Mind: Comment on other things going on in your life.

There are also “Group Forums,” which are message boards under each user-created group.

On the homepage of IDF Common Ground is a section called “Discussions.” This is a feed of all the posts in the Discussion Forum and posts in Group Forums. At the bottom of that feed, click on “See All Discussions” or click the “Forums” link at the top of the page to enter the Discussion Forum and Group Forums.

When you are in a forum, there are vertical lines to the left of the forum sections, and next to topics and posts. If the line is highlighted, there is new information that you have not seen, and if it is not highlighted, you have already seen all the information in that section. Additionally, there are numbers included in parenthesis that indicate how many new posts, and or new topics are under each section.
**Activity**
On the homepage is a section called “Activity.” This is a feed of activity such as status updates from users, new groups created, items added to galleries, new members to the site, members who have joined a group, and more. At the bottom of that feed, click on “See All Activity” or click the “Activity” link at the top of the page to enter the full Activity page. On the full Activity page, you can comment on activity items and mark things as “favorite” (which will then show up toward the top under “my favorites”), and you can sort through the various types of activity as well.

**Chat**
IDF Common Ground has a chat/instant messenger feature. To start a public chat, click on the “New Chat” bar at the bottom of the page. Give your chat a title, and click “Start Chat” and then you can drag and drop users into the chat to invite them. To start a private chat, click on the bar that says “People Here.” And then click on the word “Chat” next to the online user that you want to invite. You can invite multiple users to any chat.

**Friends**
Send friend requests to other members who share common interests, geographic location, etc. Start by clicking on the “Members” link at the top of the page. You can use the member search engine to find friends who have a common illness or live in a common location. Simply type things like “CVID” or “New York” in the search engine and the results will be people who have CVID, or people who live in New York. You can also use the dropdown menu to sort by Last Active, Newest Registered, or Alphabetical.

**Participating in Groups**
Joining or creating a group allows you to share information about specific issues that can relate to everything from a particular PI disorder to a specific segment of the community (e.g., Basketball Players with PI, or Michigan Teens with PI). You can create groups to make announcements, join discussions, or even share pictures.

To join or create a group, just click the “Groups” link at the top of the screen. But before you create a group, be sure to check and see if there is already a group that has been created about your area of interest. This will help to keep the Groups section organized, and will increase the success and reach of Groups as well.

**Galleries**
Click the “Galleries” link at the top of the site to view photos and videos in “My Galleries,” “Group Galleries,” and “All Galleries.” You can comment on individual pictures, and your comment will be added to the Activity Feed. To create your own Gallery and add items, go to your profile page, and click “Gallery” and then “Create Gallery.”

**Sign Up Today!**

If you are a teen affected by PI, then please sign up for IDF Common Ground. Make new friends, learn something about your illness you never knew, help others with your experiences! Click the button that says “New? Sign Up Today!” to get started.

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**Please remember that the information on this site should not be used in place of a visit, consultation, or advice of your healthcare provider. Should you have any healthcare related questions, you should call or see your clinician.**