

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

First Aid Protocol -V2-(01/12/21)

This protocol has been developed to ensure all staff (inc. First Aiders) are confident that they can help someone injured or ill at work during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This protocol has been collated using guidance set-out within the *Resuscitation Council UK Statement on COVID-19 in relation to CPR and resuscitation in first aid and community settings*. Available at: <https://www.resus.org.uk>

Service Managers should ensure that they:

- review their first aid provision risk assessment to include working during the outbreak
- ask all staff if there are any factors that should be taken into account as part of the service risk assessment, for example workers who have been identified as 'high risk' of COVID-19 but have first aid responsibilities.
- discuss the service risk assessment and this protocol with your first aiders so they are confident about providing the right assistance. This includes knowing what equipment they can use to minimise risk of infection transmission, as explained below.

Guidance for Staff/First Aiders

- Try to assist at a safe distance from the casualty as much as you can and minimise the time you share a breathing zone.
- Clean your hands thoroughly with soap and water or use hand sanitiser.
- If available, use:
 - a fluid-repellent surgical mask
 - disposable gloves and apron
 - eye protection (if a dynamic risk assessment indicates the likelihood of contamination by splashes, droplets of blood or body fluids)

****Please ensure spares are kept either in the first aid box or close to the first aid box***

- If they are capable, tell them to do things for you, but treating the casualty properly should be your first concern.

Performing CPR – COVID update

- If you find someone collapsed, perform a primary survey. **Do not place your face close to theirs.**

- If you have established from this that they are unresponsive and not breathing call (or get someone to call) 999 immediately – tell the call handler if the patient has any COVID-19 symptoms
- If a portable defibrillator is available, ask someone to get it. If you are on your own and the defibrillator is not close by, do not leave the casualty
- If there is a known or perceived risk of COVID-19 infection, before starting CPR, to minimise transmission risk, use a cloth or towel to cover the patient's mouth and nose, while still permitting breathing to restart following successful resuscitation
- Only deliver CPR by chest compressions and use a defibrillator (if available) – **DO NOT PERFORM** rescue breaths

After delivering any first aid

- Ensure you safely discard disposable items and clean reusable ones thoroughly (using the Coronavirus Hygiene/Waste Disposal Protocols)
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser as soon as possible
- Complete the appropriate documentation and inform a member of the management team and/or patch