



RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Guidance for Workplace First Aiders During Covid-19

It is unlikely with the controls and actions present across Renfrewshire Council, that as a first aider you would be asked to attend to a colleague who was presenting with Covid-19 symptoms.

First Aid training organisations have provided additional advice and guidance to first aiders who understandably have concerns in dealing with an individual who may or may not be infected with Covid-19. The main source of information is from the Health and Safety Executive, Resuscitation Council UK, First Aid Organisations and NHS Inform.

1. For any incident please Remember the 3P model – Preserve life, prevent worsening, Promote recovery.

If the casualty is capable, tell them to do things for you, but treating the individual remains your first concern along with your own health, safety and wellbeing.

Preserve life: If CPR is required- Refer to video at Section 4.

Call 999 immediately – tell the call handler if the patient has any COVID-19 symptoms

If you suspect a serious illness or injury, call 999 immediately – tell the call handler if the patient has any COVID-19 symptoms

Ask for help.

To **Prevent worsening** and to promote recovery for any incident follow

2. Prioritise the treatment in accordance with your training.

Danger- Make sure both you and casualty are in no further danger. Minimise the time you share a breathing zone, wash hands, put on PPE (see Section 5 below).

Response – Is casualty conscious? See additional advice below.

Airway- throat swelling, choking, anaphylaxis are examples

Breathing- life threatening conditions such as asthma, chest injury, cardiac arrest are examples

Circulation- Heart attack, heart failure, severe bleeding, cardiac arrest are examples

3. Prior to attending to someone direct

Keep 2 metre social distance between yourself and the casualty wherever possible. Wash hands put on appropriate Personal Protective Clothing including fluid resistant mask. Minimise the time you share a breathing zone. Details of PPE to be worn if available are listed at Section 5 below.

Do not treat until you have asked the casualty the normal questions as well as the following ones. Have you had: - **a new continuous cough? a high temperature? a loss of normal, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia?), have they had shortness of breath, difficulty in breathing?**

If the person answers “**No**”, then treat the casualty in line with your first aid training, ensuring good hygiene practise and social distancing wherever possible.

If you are unable to ask the person about symptoms due to the extent of the incident or if the answer to any of the above is “**Yes**”, then

- **If the casualty is mobile, ask them to remove themselves from the workplace and self-isolate as per guidance.**
- If the casualty is immobile monitor the casualty, ask for further advice and support. **Dial 999 and follow guidance above.**
- Under all circumstances wash hands thoroughly with soap and water prior to treatment and after contact with the casualty. Alcohol hand gel is recommended if soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes or nose, remember to remove PPE in the correct order, wash hands.
- Refer to additional council guidance concerning donning and doffing PPE.

4. Resuscitation Video

The link below is for anyone who is performing CPR/ defibrillation in an out-of-hospital setting. **It is strongly recommended that if you are a trained first aider that you view the video, review your training materials and this written guidance. Please note: the video is directed to members of the public in a domiciliary setting.**

[Covid-19 video Resuscitation in community setting](#)

5. First Aid Kit and Personal Protective Equipment.

Remember to check the contents of your first aid kit, and order as necessary. Refer to Guidance on First Aid Risk Assessment detailed in the council intranet page.

If there is a site defibrillator check it is in full working order. For example battery check.

Basic requirements

- Appropriate First Aid Box
- Disposable gloves (suitable size)
- Disposable apron
- Fluid-repellent surgical face mask (for first aider)
- Face mask if deemed appropriate (for injured/ ill patient)
- Eye protection such as face shield/ goggles
- Disposal bags (clinical if available) and paper towels/ roll
- Premises should have Blood Borne Virus spillage kit (BBV spillage kit)
- Access to hand washing facilities with soap is preferable (if not available then hand sanitiser)
- Most premises such as schools should already have hygiene units to aid disposal

Finally, ask your local manager to complete an Incident form on Business World should an Incident occur. As first aider you can provide details of the incident and treatment provided (if any).

Management should ensure that a review of the Workplace First Aid requirements take place as a result of the Covid pandemic.