

COVID-19 First Aid Risk Assessment

The following risk assessment looks at how first aid can continue safely while the potential risk of COVID-19 is still present. The legal requirement to provide first aid (employing more than 25 people) has not changed and we expect you to provide an Emergency first aid person. This is someone whom takes control of the situation, knows to call 999, and offers only simple first aid, such as a plaster. We have no legal obligation to the public although morally we would of course offer first aid to a member of the public if they required it. Each incident will be unique so the First Aid person must complete their own dynamic risk assessment at the time (does not have to be documented) and the majority of incidents can be treated as a normal incident

PEOPLE EXPOSED

- 👤 Colleagues
- 👤 Members of the Public

HAZARDS

- ⚠️ **First aid Person being exposed to COVID 19**
If no controls are in place then the risk of the potential of exposure does increase
- ⚠️ **Help not being offered over fears of contamination**
Some people may be afraid to deal with a first aid incident however this risk assessment hopes to alleviate that fear
- ⚠️ **Unable to maintain 2m social distancing**
Depending on the incident there may be a time the 2M rule cannot be applied.

CONTROL MEASURES

- **Follow your training**
The e-learning course will still apply so ensure you are safe to approach and nothing immediately will put you in danger
- **For minor incident - Step back**
To maintain the 2M rule for simple first aid incidents talk the individual through the process. i.e. you place a plaster on the table, they take it and apply it. For the majority of incidents the 2M rule on social distancing can be maintained
- **Talk family members through how to apply items**
If needed, for example a child, ask the parent to apply the plaster or the ice pack
- **Understanding what close contact means**
Close contact means being within a 2M distance for more than 20 minutes, if this is the scenario then the risk of contracting COVID-19 does increase, hence the 2M social distancing rule. Does not mean to say you cannot catch it less than 20 minutes if someone within 2M is Asymptomatic, just means the risk increases. However the majority of first aid incidents will be short and brief.
- **Enhanced hand washing and personal hygiene**
Wash your hands before any incident. and if possible show that you have done that to the person needing treatment. Explain to them you have washed your hands. Treat the individual then wash your hands again. If the person is still on site, politely ask them to wash their hands too before going back to their table
- **PPE / Face coverings - Last Resort**
There may be the odd incident where the 2M rule cannot be maintained or the person offering first aid feels uncomfortable. If this is the case a simple face covering may suffice or a face shield may be used Note - we do not need NHS grade as this will be a unique incident and if you have to get that close and a family member cannot help then it is most likely to be a 999 call

