



## First Aid measures during COVID-19

### Annex to First Aid procedures – version 1.0 (May 2020)

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#### **Context**

The way schools are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual and as a school we have reviewed our first aid provision.

Specific considerations relating to management of first aid is covered in government's COVID-19 guidance for all education settings. The annex relates only to carrying out the practice of first aid.

It is based on latest government guidance and will be reviewed on a regular basis as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated advice or guidance.

#### **Responsibilities**

**Headteachers** should ensure that:

- The requirements relating to the management of first aid outlined in COVID-19 guidance for educational settings have been implemented
- An adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for first aider familiarisation and practice (for circumstances where they are not otherwise familiar with wearing PPE)
- First aiders take time to practice the use of PPE prior to needing to use it
- First aiders do not fall into a clinically vulnerable group (unless a specific assessment has been carried out)
- This guidance is discussed with first aiders and they understand these new requirements.

**First Aiders** should ensure that:

- They familiarise themselves with this annex and follow these requirements where it is possible to do so
- They undertake first aid duties applying the principles of social distancing and infection control as much as is possible
- Follow the requirements for wearing PPE, specifically paying attention to the sequence for PPE removal and disposal in order to avoid self-contamination

#### **Safe working arrangements for providing first aid**

Close contact should be avoided in the first instance. Consideration should be given as to whether treatment of minor injuries is able to be done through instructing a person about what to do and passing them the items needed, standing at a distance if this is age appropriate to do.

Hands should be washed or alcohol-based hand sanitiser used, before and after administering first aid, and no coughing or sneezing over the person when treating them. Normal practices to avoid cross contamination should be followed:

- Wear gloves when dealing with open wounds.
- Cover cuts and grazes on your hands with waterproof dressing
- Dispose of all waste safely
- Do not touch a wound with your bare hand
- Do not touch any part of a dressing that will come in contact with a wound.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

In line with government guidance, the majority of staff will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- pupils whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a pupil becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in school and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

### **Where a close contact response is needed for symptomatic children**

If a person is showing symptoms of having COVID-19, wherever possible, the person should be asked to move to a location away from others. If there is no physically separate room or the casualty is not able to move to another room all other persons not required to assist in first aid provision should be asked to leave the vicinity.

The following equipment is required:

- disposable gloves
- disposable apron
- fluid-resistant surgical face mask
- eye protection
- alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- two bin bags
- disinfectant wipes (to clean down first aid box).

### ***Location of PPE***

PPE should be kept with First Aid kits so that it is readily available when needed quickly. It should be kept in a labelled box or bag.

### ***Putting on PPE***

First aiders should follow the COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment Guidance -19 and ensure that they familiarise themselves with the instructions for putting on and removing PPE in readiness for responding to a first aid event.

Guidance is available here

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/878677/PHE\\_11606\\_Putting\\_on\\_PPE\\_062\\_revised\\_8\\_April.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878677/PHE_11606_Putting_on_PPE_062_revised_8_April.pdf)

### ***Removal and disposal of PPE***

PPE should be removed when close contact is no longer required by following the sequence for removal that is detailed in PPE guidance. It is critical that this is done in order to avoid self-contamination. You should not walk through the premises wearing PPE.

Used items should be double-bagged, any dressings or waste generated from delivering first aid should also be disposed of in the waste bag and in line with the school's waste management procedures.

Instructions on how to remove PPE is found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/878678/PHE\\_11606\\_Taking\\_off\\_PPE\\_064\\_revised\\_8\\_April.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878678/PHE_11606_Taking_off_PPE_064_revised_8_April.pdf)

### ***Cleaning***

If first aid is provided to a symptomatic person, all surfaces that the person has come into contact with after they developed symptoms should be cleaned following the cleaning requirements outlined in the specific cleaning guidance documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

### ***Clothing***

Unless clothing has become contaminated or soiled as a result of close contact it does not need to be changed. Clothing should be changed when you get home (after close contact, wearing PPE) and clothes washed:

- separately from other household linen
- in a load not more than half the machine capacity
- at the maximum temperature the fabric can tolerate, then ironed or tumble dried.

### ***First Aider actions***

- After close contact with a symptomatic person there are no additional actions to be taken other than to monitor for symptoms of possible COVID-19 over the following 14 days.
- First aid box/bag should be wiped down after use using a disinfectant wipe.
- Used PPE should be replaced so that it is available for the next first aid event
- Follow your normal arrangements for recording first aid and checking/reordering stock.