

COVID 19 – Interim Policy

First Aid arrangements

First Aid Communication – Interim arrangements during COVID-19 Pandemic

In these unprecedented and demanding times, colleagues may be working away from their usual site or may be away from work in self isolation following Government COVID-19 guidelines.

Some of these colleagues may be first aiders, and we recognise that our desired first aider ratios may be less than usual. However, there are steps we can take to ensure that we still comply with the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations.

Ideally, Managers should plan to have a trained first aider on site for each shift.

However, if there are no first aiders available, the site manager or colleague responsible for the site will need to act as an “Appointed Person” taking responsibility for looking after the first-aid equipment and facilities and calling the emergency services when required.

It is important that not only must the first aid stocks on site be checked regularly but also that protective gloves and face masks are held within the first aid boxes. Hand sanitiser and hand wash must also be available.

If a first aider is on site, and first aid is required they should always follow their First Aid Training remembering that it is vital **WHEN HELPING OTHERS TO CONSIDER THEIR OWN SAFETY AND THAT OF OTHERS FIRST**. This is particularly critical in the current climate of social distancing and potential risk of exposure to COVID-19.

If first aid is provided, the first aider must ensure that they:

- Wear protective gloves and mask (PPE)
- Wear a disposable apron and glasses
- Dispose of all used PPE and waste safely
- Wash their hands with soap and water for more than 20 seconds before and after treatment

If in doubt, call 999 and follow their guidance.

Use of Defibrillators

Further information including specific information regarding the use of defibrillators during the COVID-19 pandemic is available within the following link: [First Aider Guidance](#)