

Municipality of West Elgin

Policy 2020-12 COVID-19 Pandemic First Aid Treatment

Effective Date: , 2020

Review Date:

1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to protect first aid attendants and others from the risk of exposure to COVID-19 when administering first aid treatment.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all West Elgin staff.

3. References

- Occupational Health & Safety Act
- Regulations for Industrial Establishments
- First Aid Regulation
- Risk-informed Decision-making Guidelines for Workplaces and Businesses During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Public Health Agency of Canada
- COVID-19 Guidance for Industry Operators, Ministry of Health
- Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings, Public Health Ontario
- COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Public Health Agency of Canada
- COVID-19 Guidelines, Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development

4. Procedures

4.1 General Information

- a) COVID-19 creates challenges for staff who may be required to administer first aid treatment to another person. Because of the need for close physical contact, additional precautions are necessary to protect both the attendant and the victim
- b) Additional measures may be required as circumstances change and the workplace adjusts. It is crucial to identify the correct level of first aid services for every work shift.
- c) If the number of workers on a shift has changed, or the risk of exposure to communicable diseases has increased or decreased, it is important to

continue to adequately assess the risk.

4.2 Providing First Aide Care

- a) When the call for first aid is received, the first aid attendant should initially determine if the victim is capable of answering the basic COVID-19 assessment questions:
 - Have you, or anyone else in the residence, experienced symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the past 10 days (e.g. coughing, sore throat, fever, difficulty breathing)?
 - Have you, or anyone else in the residence, been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
 - Have you, or anyone else in the residence, been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
 - Have you, or anyone else in the residence, been tested for COVID-19 and/or are waiting to hear the results of a laboratory test for COVID-19?
 - Have you, or anyone else in the residence, travelled anywhere outside of Canada within the past 14 days?
 - Have you, or anyone else in the residence, been advised by a medical professional to self-isolate for any other reason?
- b) Determine the circumstances of the call for first aid assistance.
- c) If there are any symptoms of COVID-19, send the victim home or for health care provider treatment when it is safe to do so.
- d) If the victim is suspected of being infected with COVID-19, follow standard precautions:
 - Have the victim place a mask over the nose and mouth.
 - Limit contact if possible by maintaining 2 metres of distance until the victim has donned the mask.
 - Limit the number of other people who are in contact with the victim.
 - Anyone who must be nearby should wear a face shield, disposable gloves, disposable gown if possible, and N-95 respirator or equivalent.
- e) If necessary, call 9-1-1.
- f) If no critical intervention is required, the first aid attendant should interview the victim from at least 2 metres distance and ask:
 - Is anyone sick or in self-isolation in your household?
 - Have you been in contact with anyone who is sick?
- g) The first aid attendant should determine if the victim has a minor injury and can self-administer treatment:
 - Can the victim treat the minor injury based on the first aid attendant's instructions?
 - If the answer is yes, direct the victim to treat themselves according to the appropriate first aid treatment methods.
- h) If the victim cannot treat themselves, based upon a review of the situation, the attendant should don disposable gloves, face shield, and N-95 respirator to provide treatment:
 - Wash or sanitize hands, then don disposable gloves. Ensure that gloved hands do not touch the face or other exposed skin areas.
 - Instruct the victim in the steps needed to provide first aid treatment to themselves, as much as reasonably possible. For example, the victim may

be instructed to wash their hands, wash the wound, get a bandage, open the bandage, and how to apply the bandage correctly.

- If the attendant must come in close contact with the victim, ensure that the N-95 respirator, face shield, and gloves are used.
- i) Upon completion of treatment:
- Dispose of all disposable items that were used in a garbage bag.
 - Clean and sanitize surfaces, touch points, equipment and supplies.
 - Remove face shield and sanitize if it is to be re-used.
 - Remove respirator and discard.
 - Remove gloves using the “inside-out” method.
 - Thoroughly wash or sanitize hands and areas of skin that may have been in contact with the victim.

4.3 Performing CPR

- a) The risk of disease transmission is low while performing CPR, especially when using a breathing barrier.
- b) If the first aid attendant is uncomfortable or has not been trained to perform traditional CPR, have someone call 9-1-1, don disposable gloves and respirator, and start “Hands- only” CPR (continuous chest compressions without any mouth to mouth contact) until someone else takes over or emergency services arrive.

4.4 Following Treatment

- a) First aid attendants who had contact with a victim known or suspected of having COVID-19 should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days.
- b) If symptoms occur, the attendant should self-isolate according to public health and municipal requirements.