

HAMPTON LAKES PRIMARY SCHOOL: FIRST AID POLICY - Annex

COVID-19 SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

From March 2020, the global Covid-19 pandemic has meant that some operational procedures in schools may have changed. This annex outlines the changes to administering First Aid at Hampton Lakes during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Advice on Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

The Resuscitation Council UK has issued specific advice to first aiders on giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) during the Covid-19 outbreak. The advice states that there is a risk to the first aider of contracting Covid-19 whilst giving rescue breaths, therefore the advice is as follows.

On discovering an unconscious adult casualty,

- **Shout for help and ensure an ambulance is called by dialing 999. If Covid-19 is suspected, tell them when you call 999.**
- If PPE is available, this should be worn by trained staff members only. PPE could include gloves, a face mask, a visor, eye protection and a disposable apron.
- **Do not** listen or feel for breathing by placing your ear or cheek close to the patient's mouth. Recognise cardiac arrest by looking for the absence of signs of life and the absence of normal breathing. If you are in any doubt about confirming cardiac arrest, the default position is to start chest compressions until help arrives.
- If there is a perceived risk of infection, place a cloth or towel over the casualty's mouth and nose and attempt compression only CPR until the ambulance arrives. Put hands together in the middle of the chest and push hard and fast.
- If a defibrillator is available this significantly increased the casualty's chance of survival but does not increase the risk of infection.
- After performing compression only CPR, first aiders should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water. They should also seek advice from the NHS 111 coronavirus advice service.

Paediatric cardiac arrest is more likely to be caused by a respiratory problem, than a cardiac problem; this makes ventilations crucial to the child's chances of survival. Performing rescue breaths will increase the risk of transmitting the Covid-19 virus, either to the first aider or the child/infant. However, this risk is small compared to the risk of taking no action as this will result in certain cardiac arrest and the death of the child.

Therefore on discovering an unconscious paediatric casualty,

- **IMMEDIATELY Shout for help and ensure an ambulance is called by dialing 999. If Covid-19 is suspected, tell them when you call 999.**
- If PPE is available, this should be worn by trained staff members only. PPE could include gloves, a face mask, a visor, eye protection and a disposable apron.
- **Do not** listen or feel for breathing by placing your ear or cheek close to the patient's mouth. Recognise cardiac arrest by looking for the absence of signs of life and the absence of normal breathing. If you are in any doubt about confirming cardiac arrest, the default position is to start chest compressions until help arrives.
- Ventilations can be given, using a CPR face shield. The decision to commence ventilations carries an increased risk of infection and first aiders should only do so

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in an emergency situation, having evaluated the risks to themselves and the casualty.

- If a defibrillator is available this significantly increased the casualty's chance of survival but does not increase the risk of infection.
- After performing compression only CPR, first aiders should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water. They should also seek advice from the NHS 111 coronavirus advice service.

Practical Guidance for first aiders at Hampton Lakes

When conducting first aid, first aiders should;

- assess the situation and evaluate the dangers to themselves and the casualty,
- call for help and if needed, ask somebody to call 999 for an ambulance in an emergency situation,
- wear appropriate PPE if it is available. This should be worn by trained staff members only. PPE could include gloves, a face mask, a visor, eye protection and a disposable apron.
- try to assist at a safe distance from the casualty,
- encourage the casualty to administer first aid on themselves where possible, with verbal advice from the first aider - this could include using an antiseptic wipe to clean a minor wound or apply a dressing for themselves,
- minimise the time there is close contact between the casualty and first aider - try to ensure close contact does not occur for longer than 15 minutes,
- remember the 3P model - preserve life, prevent worsening, promote recovery.

After delivering any first aid, first aiders should;

- ensure they safely discard disposable items in the clinical waste bin,
- clean reusable items thoroughly using soap and water,
- wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser as soon as possible.

First aid kits and first aid resources

At Hampton Lakes Primary School, we have provided each Bubble with its own first aid kit containing basic first aid equipment and disposable ice packs for the duration of the summer term 2020. This minimises the risk of transmission of Covid-19 through sharing first aid equipment in the First Aid room or communal first aid kits. Disposable ice packs are being used to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 which could be increased using traditional, reusable ice packs with removable, reusable covers.

A named member of staff will take responsibility for replenishing first aid kits, at the request of Bubble staff members, to again minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 by increased use of the First Aid room.

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