

ALSG statement on COVID-19 CPR and Resuscitation

ALSG fully supports the national guidance issued by the Government in relation to the management of **all** patients requiring resuscitation. No health worker should become infected with COVID-19 as a consequence of caring for a patient. Although data suggests that it is unlikely coronavirus infection will be the cause of cardiac arrest in children, it is known that they can have the infection without significant symptoms so in every emergency situation the patient should be assumed to have COVID-19 and full PPE be used by all responders BEFORE starting resuscitation.

This advice also covers those working in the community setting. We acknowledge that in children, rescue breaths and breathing support are essential and compression-only CPR may not be effective, however, it is crucial that health workers do not put themselves at increased risk when resuscitating a child. The health worker may consider giving instructions to a parent/carer, who can deliver the rescue breaths, but they should do this taking into account their own safety by either wearing full PPE or by maintaining the recommended safe distance.

Practice simulations are recommended within your own workplace to ensure your teams can perform at their best in these stressful situations.

An adapted version of the Structured Approach to Paediatric Emergencies algorithm is available here:
https://www.alsg.org/en/files/APLS_Structured_Approach_C19.pdf

Additional resources are available on the following website:

- Government guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-interim-guidance-for-first-responders/interim-guidance-for-first-responders-and-others-in-close-contact-with-symptomatic-people-with-potential-2019-ncov#what-to-do-if-you-are-required-to-assist-someone-who-is-symptomatic-and-suspected-of-having-covid-19>
- WHO guidance - <https://openwho.org/channels/covid-19>
- ASPIH - <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/coronavirus/>
- Resuscitation Council UK - <https://www.resus.org.uk/media/statements/resuscitation-council-uk-statements-on-covid-19-coronavirus-cpr-and-resuscitation/>
- First10EM - <https://first10em.com/covid-resuscitation-principles/>

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