

Delivering first aid training during the Covid-19 pandemic – advice to employers

In addition to the requirements laid down by the HSE in ‘Selecting a first-aid training provider: A guide for employers’ – GEIS3, we as the industry leaders in workplace first aid training recommend that employers consider the following aspects as part of their due diligence when choosing a first aid training provider during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- A training provider should risk assess their training delivery and mitigate all risks of possible spread of Covid-19.
- A training provider should check with their insurance provider before offering training to members of the public
- A training provider should design lessons to ensure that there is no close contact between students and or trainers and a 2m distance is maintained. Sensible adaptations to training and assessment activities should be introduced to achieve this.
- A training provider should provide appropriate handwashing facilities and / or alcohol hand sanitiser as students enter and exit the training room and throughout their time in the classroom.
- Where close contact is absolutely necessary and it is teaching and assessment related to a situation where a first aider would be expected to wear PPE, PPE must be used.
- A training provider should have in place a process to discourage those with symptoms of a cold or flu attending training and preventing those who attend with either a fever or cough from entering the classroom. They should also have in place a process to manage instances of people who develop symptoms of Covid-19 during the delivery of any training
- All equipment that is used by students should be thoroughly cleaned before use by an individual student.
- The first aid taught should reflect protocols that ensure the safe performance of first aid during the current Covid-19 pandemic backed up by a body of medical opinion and the Resuscitation Council (UK). This must still include the teaching of rescue breaths.

Notes

- The First Aid Quality Partnership (FAQP) is a stakeholder group representing leading organisations in the first aid training industry from royal chartered, accredited awarding, emergency services and clinical standards bodies.
- The vision of the FAQP is to maintain and improve quality standards in the provision of First Aid training and qualifications.
- The FAQP works to help develop, promote and share good practice in first aid training.