



COVID-19 Protocol 8

Precautions for First Aid Attendants

The health and safety of all individuals is of utmost importance. All staff and other entrants shall adhere to the following protocol and are to report any unsafe behaviour or violation of this protocol to their Supervisor immediately. Any questions regarding this protocol shall be directed to their supervisor. This protocol is for internal use only.

Scope

This protocol is for all first aid certified staff when responding to first aid incidents to staff, students to outline additional precautions that are required during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Introduction

First aid is an essential workplace service required by law. During a pandemic, these services must continue to be provided for worksites to function. First Aid Attendants (FAA's) may need to modify their standard protocols for first aid treatment to reduce the potential of transmission. COVID-19 has brought heightened awareness to infection control protocols, including the administration of First Aid care. Key pieces of information, determined through a detailed first aid risk assessment, will confirm what level of service is required.

The "*COVID-19: Recommendations for School Re-Opening*" (2017) states that children may be less susceptible to COVID-19 infection and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

While providing first aid care in a school setting, the people arriving on the scene must still take precautions to avoid contact with bodily fluids, especially through their mucous membranes (e.g. eyes, nose, mouth).

Every effort should be made to not have Patients sent to the office following first aid injuries. If they need to wait for 911 or their parent/guardian, they should not be moved from the accident scene. If they need to be moved and can do so on their own, without causing shock or further harm to themselves, they may go to the first aid area at the school/room, or back to their cohort classroom while they wait for transportation. They must always be monitored by a TVDSB staff member and if their condition worsens, call 911 immediately.

To ensure the safety of staff to respond while outside the school with students, school based first aid PPE kits should be made available at a designated unlocked exterior door for staff to easily get access to if required.

1.0 Being called to an emergency scene

- 1.1.** first aid attendants will follow the "Emergency Scene Management", staff and students should follow the TVDSB Screening Processes and not attend any sites if ill or fail the COVID-19 screening.

- Provide first aid if required following the steps outlined below.

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- 1.2. If the first aid area/room is used, a first aid record - "Record for the First Aid Room/Area" (see below) needs to be completed for contact tracing purposes.
- 1.3. After patient leaves the first aid area/room the area is to be cleaned/disinfected by a custodian following COVID-19 cleaning protocols between patients.
- 1.4. First aid area/room occupancy should be limited to only one patient and one first aid attendant at a time, when possible.

2.0 First aid assistance is required:

- 2.1 Determine if the person can provide first aid treatment to themselves (age appropriate, injury severity/tolerance). If the patient can treat themselves with direction from the first aid attendant's instruction, they should be directed to do so following proper first aid protocol:
- 2.2 Perform hand hygiene.
- 2.3 For wound care (bleeding, burns): Wash their wound, take a bandage, open the bandage and place it on themselves.
- 2.4 For suspected head and/or spinal injury and/or fracture: stay in the position found.
- 2.5 Blankets or other shared items will not be provided, if the person goes into shock call 911 immediately and follow their direction.
- 2.6 If the patient cannot treat themselves, based on a review of the situation, the first aid attendant should don appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to provide treatment:
 - ✓ Perform hand hygiene.
 - ✓ Ensure you are wearing a medical grade surgical face mask, and the face shield.
 - ✓ Put on gloves. Ensure your gloved hands do not touch your face or other exposed skin areas.
 - ✓ Provide a medical grade surgical face mask to the patient and encourage them to wear it if they are able to. If the patient had been wearing a fabric face covering it should be kept with them, if possible.
 - ✓ Provide treatment following first aid protocols.
 - ✓ Upon completion of first aid care, clean your re-usable face shield per the COVID-19 -Personal Protective Equipment Protocol and don a new medical grade surgical face mask, if required.
- 2.7 If cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is required, the risk of disease transmission is low, especially when using a breathing barrier.
 - ✓ Wear a medical grade surgical face mask, face shield, and gloves, if available.
 - ✓ Place a medical grade surgical face mask over the mouth and nose of the patient.
 - ✓ Perform Hands-Only CPR (continuous chest compressions without ventilations) until someone else takes over or emergency help arrives.
 - ✓ If an Automated External Defibrillator is used, it will be transported with Emergency Medical Services. If it is not used follow the TVDSB COVID-19 Enhanced Cleaning Protocol.

3.0 Additional Precautions for first aid treatment if COVID-19 is suspected:

- 3.1 Patient should be taken to the isolation area/room (not the first aid area/room), follow the isolation room/area protocol.

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- 3.2** Limit contact by maintaining at least 2 metres distance, if possible, until the patient has donned a medical grade surgical face mask, if they are able to.
- Once they have donned a medical grade surgical face mask, first aid procedures can be provided as trained.
 - If they are unable to, provide first aid care as required but maintain 2 metres distance upon completion.
- 3.3** Those in direct contact with the patient must wear the “full” personal protective equipment if contact with bodily fluids is suspected:
- Isolation gown if there could be contact with bodily fluids.
 - medical grade surgical face mask
 - Face shield
 - One pair of gloves
- 3.4** Only one first aid attendant should be designated to enter the patient’s 2 metre space. If the first aid attendant needs relief a second first aid attendant wearing “full” PPE can do so. Those entering the 2 metre space should be limited to only those required.
- 3.5** Provide first aid treatment following first aid standards.
- 3.6** Remove your personal protective equipment following the first aid treatment and dispose of it in the regular waste stream. Clean your re-usable face shield per the COVID-19 - Personal Protective Equipment Protocol. Don another medical grade surgical face mask.

4.0 Instructions for Additional First Aid Attendants who may provide support only

TVDSB sites have more than one first aid attendant that may be available to provide first aid assistance. It is not required that every first aid attendant arriving on scene be in direct contact with the patient or provide hands-on first aid. There are many other tasks that may need to be completed including:

- Upon arriving on the scene, perform the Emergency Scene Management. Find out if the office has been notified of the event and if 911 and/or the parent(s)/guardian(s) have been contacted as required.
- Retrieve a first aid kit and an automated external defibrillator (AED) if needed.
- Send someone to meet Emergency Services.
- Remove bystanders from the area.
- Make the area safe, but do not change the area if there was a critical injury (e.g. fracture, loss of sight to an eye, amputation, etc.).
- Take notes and record first aid that has been provided and the information from the Secondary Survey.
- Protect or gather the patient’s belongings so they can go home with them.
- Reassure the patient.

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