

	Document name:		
	LANESAFE TRAFFIC CONTROL ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY MANUAL	Doc. Number:	MAN-EHS-LSTC-001
	SAFE JOB PROCEDURES	Rev.:	0

## SJP- OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID ATTENDANT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The following document outlines the steps to take for assessing first aid needs and additional precautions for occupational first aid attendants to add to their procedures.

First aid is an essential workplace service required by the BC OHS Regulation. During a pandemic, these services must continue to be provided for our worksites to function. Occupational First Aid Attendants (OFAA's) may need to modify their standard protocols for first aid treatment to reduce the potential of transmission.

As circumstances change and workplaces adjust, identifying the correct level of first aid services for every operational shift is crucial. If the number of workers on a shift has changed or the hazard level has increased or decreased it is important to assess what is needed. Key pieces of information, determined through a detailed first aid risk assessment, will confirm what level of service is required.

WorkSafeBC has created assessment tools to assist with first aid risk assessments and COVID-19 protocols which can be found here:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/ofaaprotocols-covid-19-pandemic?lang=en>

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/ohsr-searchable/first-aidassessment-flow-chart?lang=en>

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/ohsr-searchable/first-aidassessment-worksheet?lang=en>

The first aid risk assessment will help determine the type of control measures that are needed.

### When Providing First Aid Care:

Designated First Aid Attendants will perform the following procedures, including the priority action approach as per their training, for each patient.

1. As soon as the call for first aid is received, the first aid attendant should, if possible:
  - Find out if the patient is conscious and capable of answering. Ask the worker the BC COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool questions to verify the current status of their health.
  - Determine the circumstances surrounding the call for help.
  - If there are any symptoms of COVID-19, send the patient home or to medical aid when it is safe to do so. Follow the instructions of the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool or call 8-1-1 for more information.
  - If required, call 9-1-1.

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2. If no critical interventions are required; the first aid attendant should interview the patient from a (physical) distance and ask:
  - Is anyone sick or in self-isolation in your household?
  - Have you been in contact with anyone who is sick?
3. The first aid attendant should determine if the patient has a minor injury and can treat themselves:
  - Can the patient treat the minor injury based on the first aid attendants' instructions?
  - If the answer is yes, direct the patient to treat themselves as per the proper OFA Protocol.
4. If the patient cannot treat themselves, based upon a review of the situation, the attendant should don the appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to provide treatment:
  - Hands should be washed first, then gloves need to be put on. Ensure your gloved hands do not touch your face or any other exposed skin areas.
  - Instruct the patient in the steps needed to provide first aid to themselves, as much as reasonably possible.
    - i. For example, you can instruct the patient to wash their hands, wash their wound, grab a bandage, open the bandage, and put the bandage on themselves.
  - If you must come within 2 metres, masks may provide protection against transmission when used by both the first aid attendant and patient. This can be a DIY mask. Medical masks and N95 masks should be left for high risk patients.

### **When Performing CPR:**

Compression only CPR should be performed during the COVID-19 pandemic (continuous chest compressions without any mouth to mouth contact). More information about appropriate use of CPR during the COVID-19 pandemic is available in the WorkSafeBC document on OFAA protocols for COVID-19

### **First Aid Treatment (for a patient with suspected COVID-19):**

First aid providers caring for people with suspected COVID-19 should follow standard precautions. Have the sick person place a face mask over their nose and mouth if they have not done so already. Limit contact by staying back at least 2 metres, if possible, until that person has done so.

Try to limit the number of individuals in contact with the sick person. Those who provide direct care for someone who may have COVID-19 should wear respiratory protection (e.g. N95 mask, P100), eye protection, disposable gloves, and a disposable isolation gown, if possible. A surgical mask or face shield could be used if respiratory protection is not available. The BC Centre for Disease Control has advised that non-medical masks (e.g. home-made cloth masks) can be used as an interim measure if commercial masks are not available.

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### **Cleaning Procedures:**

While wearing PPE, clean and disinfect items which have touched the patient. After cleaning, dispose of PPE and any exposed clothing and perform hand hygiene. The area should be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible after treatment has completed with either soap and water or 70% isopropyl alcohol.

### **For First Aid Attendants:**

First Aid Attendants who had contact with persons known or suspected to have COVID-19 should monitor themselves for symptoms for a minimum of 14 days (fever, cough, breathing difficulties/shortness of breath, or other symptoms). If these symptoms occur, they should self-isolate and immediately contact their healthcare provider and 8-1-1.