

Statements on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Resuscitation Council UK Statement on COVID-19 in relation to CPR and resuscitation in healthcare settings

This statement is for healthcare professionals who are performing CPR in a healthcare setting.

1. Purpose

1.1. Resuscitation Council UK has received several enquiries concerning the risks of COVID-19 during cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

1.2. This statement provides specific guidance for healthcare workers (HCWs) on CPR in healthcare settings for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

1.3. This supplements guidance available from the [Department of Health and Social Care](#) (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) as well as [Public Health Wales](#), [Health Protection Scotland](#) (HPS) and [Department of Health Northern Ireland](#) (DHNI), and may change based on increasing experience in the care of patients with COVID-19, as well as the effect of the outbreak on health services. It is therefore important to always check the latest guidance on the DHSC/PHE /PHW/HPS/DHNI websites.

1.4. COVID-19 is thought to spread in a way similar to seasonal influenza; from person-to-person through close contact and droplets. Standard principles of infection control and droplet precautions are the main control strategies and should be followed rigorously. Aerosol transmission can also occur. Attention to hand hygiene and containment of respiratory secretions produced by coughing and sneezing are the cornerstones of effective infection control.

1.5. All HCWs managing those with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 must follow local and national guidance for infection control and the use of PPE.