

First aid compliance code P608

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1. Introduction

Schools must provide first aid personnel and equipment for its staff in case they are injured or become ill at work and consider the needs on non-employees such as pupils and visitors in their first aid provision.

Head teachers are responsible for all staff and activities under their control, as detailed in the *Model School Health and Safety Policy P116c* and therefore must ensure that appropriate first aid provision is made for their school and for offsite activities.

2. What does *First Aid* include?

The term *First Aid* means treating someone who is injured or unwell to keep them alive or stop their condition worsening until medical help arrives, and; treating minor injuries which do not require medical help.

First aid does not normally include giving medicines.

3. First Aid Needs Assessment

A first aid needs assessment should be carried out in order to establish your required first aid provision. The assessment takes account of individual circumstances, for example, the size of your setting, the age of your pupils/students, the activities that you carry out, how many people use the premises, your offsite visits.

The process of performing the first aid needs assessment is explained in *First aid needs assessment guidance G608b*.

Your first aid needs should be reviewed after any major changes such as changes to staff, premises or activities to ensure it remains appropriate, or otherwise, routinely as part of your normal review of your safety arrangements.

4. First aid personnel

You will need to provide appropriate first aid personnel using the findings of your first aid needs assessment.

First aid provision must be available while people use the premises and when staff and pupils are offsite. You should also plan to cover first aid personnel who may not be available due to sickness or other absences.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for first aid training booking information.

Any member of school staff may be asked to undertake first aid tasks, but they cannot be required to. Teachers and other staff working with pupils and students are expected to use their best endeavours at all times, particularly in emergencies, to secure the welfare of the pupils in education in the same way that parents might be expected to act towards their children. In general, the consequences of taking no action are likely to be

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more serious than those of trying to assist in an emergency. This should be communicated to all staff.

In selecting a first aider, the following factors should be considered:

- reliability and communication skills
- aptitude and ability to absorb new knowledge and learn new skills
- ability to cope with stressful and physically demanding emergency procedures
- availability to respond to an emergency immediately
- willingness to perform ventilations during CPR in the event that the person may have COVID-19.

First aiders will be expected to:

- give immediate help to casualties with common injuries or illnesses and those arising from specific hazards at the school or on educational visits
- when appropriate, ensure that an ambulance or other professional medical help is called

You will need to ensure that refresher training is completed annually to maintain their basic skills and keep up to date with any changes in procedures and that certification is renewed as appropriate, for example First Aid certificates are valid for 3 years. If retraining is not carried out before the expiry date, another full course is required.

Emergency First Aider

Emergency first aiders are trained to carry out basic first aid and perform life-saving interventions whilst waiting for the emergency services. Emergency first aiders will need to undertake the Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) course.

First Aider

First Aiders are trained to perform the duties of emergency first aiders, above, and also to provide first aid for a range of specific injuries and illnesses. First Aiders will need to undertake the First Aid at Work (FAW) course.

Paediatric First Aid training

Schools and other settings with young children (from birth to the end of the academic year in which they have their fifth birthday) are required to have at least one person trained in Paediatric First Aid on the premises and available at all times when children are present and should accompany children on outings. This is a *Department for Education* requirement.

8. First aid kits

There is **no** definitive list of what should be in a first aid kit. The contents of each kit will be determined by the first aid needs assessment. The following list is a suggestion only, for general and low-risk environments.

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- a leaflet giving general guidance on first aid (for example, HSE's leaflet *Basic Advice on First Aid at Work*)
- 20 individually wrapped sterile plasters (assorted sizes), appropriate to the type of work (hypoallergenic plasters can be provided if necessary)
- 2 sterile eye pads
- 2 individually wrapped triangular bandages, preferably sterile
- 6 safety pins
- 6 large sterile individually wrapped unmedicated wound dressings
- 2 medium-sized sterile individually wrapped unmedicated wound dressings
- 3 pairs of disposable gloves

Travelling and first-aid

There is **no** mandatory list of items to be included in first-aid kits for off site activities or educational visits. but they might typically contain:

- a leaflet giving general guidance on first aid (for example HSE's leaflet *Basic Advice on First Aid at Work*)
- 6 individually wrapped sterile plasters (hypoallergenic plasters can be provided, if necessary);
- 2 individually wrapped triangular bandages, preferably sterile;
- 2 safety pins;
- 1 large sterile un-medicated dressing;
- individually wrapped moist cleansing wipes;
- 2 pairs disposable gloves.

The visit leader should assess what level of first aid provision is needed and identify any additional items that may be necessary for specialised activities. The [Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel \(OEAP\)](#) provides advice on outdoor learning and off-site visits, including the assessment of first aid requirements.

Minibuses

A suitable, clearly marked first aid box should be readily available and in good condition. The following items must be kept in the first aid box:

- 10 antiseptic wipes, foil packed
- 1 conforming disposable bandage (not less than 7.5 cm wide)
- 2 triangular bandages
- 1 packet of 24 assorted adhesive dressings
- 3 large sterile unmedicated ambulance dressings (not less than 15.0 cm × 20.0 cm)
- 2 sterile eye pads, with attachments
- 12 assorted safety pins
- 1 pair of rustless blunt-ended scissors

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[Further information is available](#) here.

Medication

First aid does not include administering medication (subject to this section).

The only exception is when aspirin is used as first aid to a casualty with a suspected heart attack for those over 16. Never give aspirin to a child younger than 16, unless it has been [prescribed by a doctor](#).

Medication should not be stored with first aid.

Whilst some pupils will have long-term and complex medical conditions or carry their own medication (for example, an inhaler for asthma or adrenaline for intramuscular use in anaphylaxis) the only role for a first aider is generally, limited (where appropriate) to helping pupils who need to take their own medication to do so. Information about supporting pupils with medical conditions can be found [here](#) and contains information about:

- [Emergency asthma inhalers for use in schools](#) guidance which should be followed, noting that schools can hold emergency salbutamol inhalers for the use of pupils whose own inhaler was not available.
- [Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools](#) noting that, schools can obtain, without a prescription, adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices, if they wish to use in emergencies where the pupil holds both medical authorisation and parental consent to an AAI to be administered, if the pupils own is not immediately available.

Where pupils may need to have access to life saving prescription drugs in an emergency, the details should be recorded in the pupil's individual healthcare plan and identified staff members will be aware of what to do.

The administration of prescription only medication specified in [Schedule 19 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012](#) should only be given by those trained to do so.

However, where a first aid needs assessment identifies that Schedule 19 medication may be required to be administered in an emergency, you may want to consider providing first aiders with additional training so that they can be aware of the symptoms and condition and administer lifesaving medication in an emergency situation.

Please refer to statutory guidance on [supporting pupils at schools with medical conditions](#) for more information.

Any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with administering of medicines, but they cannot be required to do so.

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9. First aid rooms

School employers are required to have suitable accommodation that can be used for medical examination and treatment of pupils and for the short-term care of sick or injured pupils which includes a washbasin and is near to a toilet (this requirement is under School Premises Regulations).

This room does not need to be used exclusively for medical purposes (though it must not be used for teaching), but it should be appropriate for that purpose and readily available for use when needed. Schools **may** consider using such a room for first aid.

Where a school caters for pupils with complex needs, additional medical accommodation should be provided which caters for those needs.

Further information on the requirements for a first aid room can be found [here](#)

10. Managing the risk of COVID-19 when providing first aid treatment

The overall risk to first aiders of contracting COVID-19 from a casualty is low, particularly where they are fully vaccinated.

While there is an increased risk of transmitting COVID-19 from performing CPR, the risk is small compared to the risk of not taking action. Cardiac arrest in **children** is more likely to be caused by a respiratory problem (asphyxial arrest), making ventilations crucial to the child's chances of survival.

Head teachers are advised to check that staff who undertake a first aid role are comfortable and willing to continue in the role and that they do not have any personal risk factors that means they should not do this. They should also specifically check if they are willing to perform mouth-to-mouth ventilation particularly for children.

Where close contact is needed in order to treat the person

Respiratory Infection – PPE guidance should be followed where close contact is required.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

The Resuscitation Council UK strongly promotes CPR (and use of defibrillators where available) as these are critical to saving lives.

The importance of calling an ambulance and taking immediate action cannot be stressed highly enough.

It is acknowledged that you may not have had the opportunity to put on PPE. If you perform mouth-to-mouth ventilation, use a resuscitation face shield where available

Reducing the risk when carrying out CPR in adults

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If the rescuer is not willing or able to perform CPR, they can place a mask or cloth over the persons mouth and nose and attempt compression only CPR until the ambulance arrives. Put hands together in the middle of the chest and push hard and fast.

After providing first aid, the first aider should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water; or use hand sanitiser and where CPR was performed, be vigilant for symptoms of respiratory infection for the following 10 days.

10. Implementing site arrangements

Your provision should be enough to ensure that first aid can be administered without delay and be available at all times. Schools should ensure that they have arrangements in place to ensure that:

- Staff are aware of the PPE that must be worn when administering first aid to people showing signs of respiratory infection (outlined in the Infection Control Compliance Code) and received instruction in how to put on, take off PPE and dispose of it.
- Appropriate first aid procedures and requirements that are outlined the Infection Control Compliance Code are understood and implemented
- First aid equipment including PPE is regularly checked and re-ordered.
- Parents/carers are contacted as soon as possible in the event of a serious injury.
 - In the case of first aid treatment or response, inform parents or carers of any accident or injury sustained by the pupil on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable, of any first aid treatment given.
- Report incidents requiring first aid treatment using the online Incident Reporting System applying the criteria set out in *Introduction to Incident Reporting G601e*.
 - Notify healthandsafety@norfolk.gov.uk as soon as possible in the event of a serious incident in connection with the settings activities.

Communicating information

You should inform employees, pupils (and other site users) of your first aid arrangements, including the first aid policy and location of:

- equipment
- facilities
- first aiders or appointed person

They should know how to contact a first aider or appointed person urgently should the need arise. The information should be clear and easy to understand and shared with employees, pupils, contractors and visitors to the school or college as appropriate.

A simple method of keeping employees informed is to display first aid notices. At least one notice in a prominent position at each main block/building of the site is recommended. Schools can also develop procedures for informing staff in consultation with employees or safety representatives. The inclusion of first aid

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information during induction training will help make sure new employees are made aware of first aid arrangements.

11. Recording first aid treatment

It is necessary to record any first aid treatment that is given. A record should be made of:

- the date, time and place of the incident
- the name and job of the injured or ill person
- details of the injury or illness and what first-aid was given
- what happened to the person immediately afterwards, eg went back to work, went home, went to hospital
- name and signature of the first aider or person dealing with the incident

The form *First aid record of treatment (confidential when completed) Form F608a* can be used to record first aid treatment. Copies of completed forms, on paper or electronic, are confidential and must be stored securely.

12. Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

You may identify through your first aid needs assessment that an AED should be provided,

Training in the use of AEDs can provide additional knowledge and skills and may promote greater confidence in the use of a defibrillator where it is provided.

Educational settings must ensure that this equipment is maintained in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Further information on AEDs and DfE purchasing routes is available here: [Automated external defibrillators \(AEDs\) in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/automated-external-defibrillators-aeds-in-schools)

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Booking First Aid Training

First aid training

Norfolk County Council uses a single supplier to provide its first aid training: *Norvic Training UK Ltd*. This supplier should be used for all first-aid training for *First Aid at Work*, *Emergency First Aid at Work*, *First Aid Requalification* and *First Aid Refresher* training.

Booking instructions

Individual bookings

- If you wish to book yourself or a few members of staff onto a course, you can find Norvic's scheduled courses at www.norvictraining.co.uk/course-dates
- Courses are held at Bowthorpe Hall in Norwich, and at Waterbeach near Cambridge.
- Once you have found the course that you would like to book, you can contact Norvic by web enquiry on <http://www.norvictraining.co.uk/contact-us/>, telephone 01603 343534 or email info@norvictraining.co.uk.
- You will be asked to send a purchase order (PO) to Norvic

Whole course bookings

- If you wish to book a whole course at one of Norvic's venues, or one that you can provide, then you should contact Norvic by web enquiry on <http://www.norvictraining.co.uk/contact-us/> or telephone 01603 343534 to discuss your requirements.
- If you provide your own venue for the training, you are responsible for seeing that it is suitable and safe for training. For example, a room used for first aid training must have sufficient space and clean floors or carpets so that people can practice resuscitation. Norvic will be able to discuss the suitability of the room with you.
- Once the booking is agreed, you will be asked to provide a purchase order (PO) to Norvic.