

Changes to Classroom and Assessment Practices Clinical Evidence Task-Force Requirements

Summary

From 01 September 2022, all in-person First Aid training will re-commence assessments which require a demonstration of key first aid skills on a specialised mannequin and/or another attendee.

Background

In March 2020, the Australian Industry and Skills Committee formalised a recommendation from the First Aid Industry Reference Committee. The recommendation requires that RTOs (Registered Training Organisations) implement a 'reasonable adjustment' for assessments demonstrating rescue breathing skills.

Following this advice, Red Cross implemented our COVID Response Guidelines, which detailed adjustments which minimised the risk of infection to staff and students. These adjustments included:

- Rescue breathing ventilations – demonstrating breathing techniques without a mannequin using verbal descriptors
- Other practical activities and assessments – where possible, students would practice techniques on themselves or provide verbal descriptors to the trainer.

What is Changing

From 01 September 2022, training and assessment activities undertaken during First Aid and CPR courses will revert to pre-covid conditions. Specifically:

- learners will be required to demonstrate rescue breathing techniques on specialised mannequins
- skills such as: care for an unconscious casualty, use of an auto-injector (EpiPen), and bleeding control - should be demonstrated on another person (a 'casualty').

Learners **can not** be exempted from demonstrating rescue breaths if they wish to be awarded a Unit of Competency and/or a nationally-recognised qualification. This change is in line with the National COVID 19 Clinical Evidence Task Force, [Basic Life Support in the community](#) <Link>.

Our Infection Control Practices

We have a number of policies and practices in place to minimise the risk of infectious disease and promote good hygiene. These include but are not limited to:

- Australian Red Cross Vaccination Policy – all staff must have received two doses of the authorised COVID vaccine by March 2022.
- Mannequins are cleaned regularly to the required standards of the manufacturer
 - Students are also provided with alcohol-based antiseptic wipes to disinfect the manikin prior to, and after manikin use
 - Students are also provided with a single-use-barrier device (face shield) to use when demonstrating rescue breaths on the manikins during training
 - Where used, mannequin lung bags are changed regularly
- Classroom equipment including resources, chairs, tables and door handles are regularly cleaned by both the trainer and professional cleaners
- Education of students regarding good hygiene practices and standard precautions while giving first aid
- Regular breaks are provided to students to allow an opportunity to practice good hygiene (hand washing, correct disposal of waste).
- Physical distancing is adhered to in line with relevant health authority advice
- Mandatory mask wearing is adhered to in line with relevant health authority advice
- Wherever possible, trainers and venues ensure good classroom ventilation
- Red Cross requests that students refrain from booking/attending if they have Covid, are experiencing any symptoms, have been in contact with someone with COVID, are in isolation due to COVID or are awaiting COVID test results.
- Red Cross reserves the right to requests students to leave if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms
- Red Cross uses a paperless system to deliver training – reducing the exchange of hardcopy materials