



Department of Public Health

January 6, 2021

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GUIDANCE ON CPR TRAINING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

To date, there is insufficient evidence about CPR and COVID transmission, whether under simulated or real-life conditions. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) notes that CPR, to include intubation, chest compressions and manual ventilation are considered an aerosol-generating procedure and therefore have the potential of infecting healthcare providers (HCP) performing these procedures.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation in El Paso, TX, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is recommending the following strategies to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission among HCP that require initial training or re-certification on basic or advance CPR courses:

- Postpone all re-certification basic and advance CPR courses and provide an extension period to attend appropriate re-certification course at a later date.
- For HCP that are required to have initial basic or advance CPR certification, please observe the following guidelines for risk mitigation during CPR training:

Risk Mitigation during CPR Training

The risk of infection with COVID-19 during CPR courses in a classroom can be reduced for learners and instructors by:

- Requiring health screening of students upon entry to the course and ALL symptomatic students should stay home.
- Requiring ALL students and/or instructors that are awaiting COVID-19 test results or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days should be excluded from in-person participation until cleared by appropriate department.
- Requiring face coverings at all times during the course.

Angela Mora – Public Health Director

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O: (915) 212-6502 | <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/public-health>





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- Educate students about the proper use of a pocket mask with a HEPA filter during a real event but **NOT** performing practice or simulation on a mannequin.
- Performing simulated breaths (the student says, “breath”) or bag-valve-masks only for the practical portion of the course.
- Spacing mannequins 6 feet apart, providing one manikin and AED per student, and having students use only their own manikin/AED even during multiple-rescuer scenarios.
- Cleaning and disinfecting all reusable equipment after each class and discarding non-reusable equipment such as valves.
- Ensuring 6-foot distancing between students throughout the course.
- Requiring hand hygiene before and after skills practices.
- Ensuring good ventilation in the room.

Learners should be instructed about the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) before performing CPR on real-life situations. To further lower the risk of aerosolization during CPR, discussion topics could include pausing chest compressions during ventilation, and the use of defibrillation alone if appropriate PPE is unavailable.

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