

Joint NHS London and Resuscitation Council UK Statement on PPE Requirements for Chest Compressions / Defibrillation

- In a cardiac arrest situation without treatment a person will die, usually within a few minutes. A rapid response provides the best chance for survival.
- In an acute hospital setting the management of a cardiac arrest is likely to progress to include airway support / intubation and therefore many Acute Trusts have taken a pragmatic approach and advise within their CPR guidance that [AGP PPE](#) is worn.
- In a non-acute setting where staff would not be expected to provide airway support / intubate in a cardiac arrest situation chest compressions / defibrillation should commence while awaiting advanced support e.g. ambulance services. Staff undertaking chest compressions / defibrillation in such settings should wear the highest level of [PPE](#) available to them for their clinical practice. [Resuscitation Council UK](#) also advises loosely placing a face covering over the nose and mouth of the patient.
- If a cardiac arrest occurs in a public space (i.e. without the benefit of resuscitative equipment or PPE) including within a healthcare setting, first responders should follow [PHE Guidance for First Responders](#) and [Resuscitation Council UK Community Guidance](#) which advise, following a dynamic risk assessment, that individuals ensure that advanced support is on the way, where possible place a cloth over the patient's mouth and nose and commence chest compressions / defibrillation until advanced support arrives.