

COVID 19 Policy

The global pandemic of SARS NCOV2 (COVID-19) has resulted in significant challenges and changes in how healthcare (including pre-hospital care education) is being delivered in Ireland.

Sinnott Training & Certification Ltd are taking the COVID 19 pandemic, and its effect on our staff and learners very seriously. We were one of the first training institutes to close our doors to learner when the outbreak began, we did this to limit the effect of COVID 19 on our staff and learners. Since then we have studied all the guidance from all of regulators and advisors including the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council, Health Service Executive, Health & Safety Authority, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, and World Health Organisation. Considering all this information & guidance STAC have the developed the following policy & procedures.

Key points of guidance, full versions of the documents available in appendix.

- The SARS NCOV2 virus which causes COVID-19, infects through contact with the mucous membranes. **It does not infect through the skin.** (*ref PHECC*)
- The greatest element of risk for First Aider is transfer of the virus to the mucous membranes by contact of contaminated hands (including contaminated gloved hands) with the eyes, nose or mouth. (*ref PHECC*)
- Occupational exposure health risk to COVID-19 is defined as in healthcare and laboratory settings. (*ref HSA*) The nature of the work undertaken by STAC **does not** pose an occupational exposure health risk to COVID-19.
- The HSE advises that there is no evidence that using facemasks is of any benefit to people who are not sick. Facemasks are only recommended to be worn by symptomatic individuals (advised by a healthcare worker) to reduce the risk of transmitting the infection to other people. As a result, facemasks are not recommended for people working with the general public who are feeling well and do not have respiratory symptoms associated with Covid-19 (for example, cough, fever, shortness of breath). (*ref HSA*)
- The key interventions to manage this risk are to minimise hand contamination (keep your hands to yourself when possible), avoid touching your face and clean your hands frequently (with alcohol hand-rub or soap and water).
- There is also a significant risk of direct transfer of the virus on to mucous membranes by droplet transmission, that is, by direct impact of larger infectious virus droplets generated from the patient's respiratory tract landing directly in your eyes, nose or mouth. This is most likely to happen if you are within 1 meter of the patient. (*ref PHECC*)
- Keeping safe means focusing on the major identifiable risks. (*ref PHECC*)
- Training at all levels remains important. The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to persist for some time, so we must give thought to how training continues in this new environment. Training and education

(including assessment & examinations) should be conducted in such a way that infection risk is minimised. This may require delivery on-line or in smaller groups than normal to facilitate social distancing. (ref *PHECC*)

- STAC provide, business support activities which are necessary to support essential services (ref www.gov.ie)

Taking all of these advice guidelines into place, STAC has undertaken risk assessments of conducting training in our training centre, and on our client's sites. Both risk assessments are in appendix 2. and have put the following controls in place.

Training in STAC Training Centre.

- No occupational exposure to COVID-19.
- Disinfection mats at entrance for shoe disinfection.
- Hand sanitising upon entrance to training centre.
- Temperature check of all personal upon entrance to training centre.
- Screening questionnaire of all personal upon entrance to training centre.
- Any personnel displaying symptoms of Covi-19 will be asked to leave premises.
- Able supply of hand sanitiser available throughout the training centre.
- Full premises sanitisation with Ozone night before all classes.
- Two metre distance between all learners' chairs.
- No sharing of equipment, all learner to have their own CPR manikin.
- Full body manikin available for students to practice skills on; recovery position, dressings etc.
- Able supply of sanitiser wipes available to learners, instructors & staff.
- PPE masks & gloves available, but not compulsory, for all staff, instructors & learners.
- First Aid provided at EMT & EFR level during all training. Phone on site to contact Ambulance/doctor.

Training on client's site.

- No occupational exposure to COVID-19.
- Hand sanitising upon entrance to training room.
- Temperature check of all personal upon entrance to training room.
- Screening questionnaire of all personal upon entrance to training room.
- Any personnel displaying symptoms of Covi-19 will be asked to leave premises.
- Able supply of hand sanitiser available throughout the training room.
- Training room to be cleaned thoroughly before commencement of class, If client cannot provide this training will be postponed.
- No sharing of equipment, all learner to have their own CPR manikin
- Full body manikin available for students to practice skills on; recovery position, dressings etc
- Two metre distance between all learners' chairs. If client cannot provide this, training will be postponed.
- Able supply of sanitiser wipes available to learners, instructors & staff.
- PPE masks & gloves available, but not compulsory, for all staff, instructors & learners.
- First Aid provided at EMT & EFR level during all training. Phone on site to contact Ambulance/doctor.

References

https://www.hsa.ie/eng/topics/covid-19/covid-19_advice_for_employers_and_employees/covid_19_%E2%80%93_advice_for_employers_and_employees.html#13

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/dfeb8f-list-of-essential-service-providers-under-new-public-health-guidelin/#administrative-and-support-services>

https://www.phecit.ie/PHECC/Publications_and_Resources/Newsletters/Newsletter_Items/2020/PHECC_COVID_19_Advisory_v1.aspx