

COVID-19 CARDIAC ARREST ACTION CARD

Use in all confirmed or suspected cases

!! Staff safety is paramount – do NOT enter room without appropriate PPE !!
Performing CPR carries a high exposure risk

FIRST RESPONDER ACTIONS:

1. Apply/maintain full PPE (FFP3 mask or respirator, visor, apron, gloves, use buddy system) – do not leave room to get equipment/help etc.
2. Pull emergency buzzer – crash trolley to be brought OUTSIDE room and 2222 call put out. Assess/confirm cardiac arrest – pulse/breathing effort, do NOT feel for breathing with your face.
3. Start chest compressions if confirmed/suspected cardiac arrest. Do NOT attempt ventilation (bag-mask or mouth-to-mouth) as first responder.
4. Defibrillator to be brought inside room ASAP and rhythm check performed; use AED with compression-only CPR until team arrive.

REST OF TEAM:

1. Ensure crash trolley outside room and defibrillator inside room. At least one person to remain with crash trolley to pass equipment/drugs.
2. Minimise personnel to enter room, in full PPE (FFP3 mask or respirator, visor, apron, gloves): e.g. 1 team leader, 1 for vascular access/ABG, 1 for airway, 1 for chest compressions.
3. Minimise airway intervention; use a viral filter between airway and Ambu-Bag/circuit; cease chest compressions for intubation by most experienced person present. Otherwise follow standard ALS.
4. Urgent communication with critical care while resuscitation ongoing.

FOLLOWING ARREST:

1. Ensure safe removal of PPE (buddy system) and safe decontamination of equipment used in arrest e.g. defibrillator.
2. Debrief; take a moment to ensure you are safe to continue working.