

COVID-19 Emergency Response Sub-Committee

Statement on the delivery of first aid training

Further to the advice regarding first aid training that was issued by the First Aid Industry Reference Committee on 25 March 2020, the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) wishes to advise Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) of the following:

- RTOs seeking to continue delivering first aid should undertake a risk assessment to consider whether the training is urgent and essential in the context of current social distancing and societal restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Where training is essential, RTOs must undertake the necessary adjustments as outlined in the general advice regarding the delivery of face-to-face training below.
- Where training is essential and must continue, given the high risk of transmission of COVID-19 through bodily fluids such as saliva, RTOs must provide a “reasonable adjustment” to **all students** when teaching and assessing the performance of ventilations on a manikin.
- This means that for the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, **RTOs must not allow** students to breathe directly into a manikin. This will help minimise the risk of spreading the virus.
- Instead, students are to be assessed performing breaths to the side of the manikin.
- Assessors are to use their professional judgement in assessing competence of students’ capacity to perform CPR under these new circumstances.
- RTOs must still assess students against all other aspects of CPR as per the unit of competency requirements set out in the HLT Training Package. All other Assessment Requirements, including the Assessment Conditions, must also be met.

This advice is to apply for the period of the COVID-19 pandemic only. Further advice will be provided once it is assessed that it is safe for first aid training to resume as normal.

Advice from Safe Work Australia

- All WHS Regulators have agreed that no compliance action will be taken in relation to the first aid training requirements in regulation 42 of the model WHS Regulations where first aid training is not available because of COVID-19.
- Discussions are ongoing for other WHS training and assessment. In the interim, you will need to contact your WHS regulator to obtain their policy on other WHS training and assessment impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other industry regulators

- If an RTO advertises and delivers a training product to lead to an occupational or licensed outcome with an industry regulator, the RTO must ensure that delivering with these adaptive measures will continue to enable a student to meet industry regulatory requirements.



- RTOs should also contact industry regulators, where appropriate, regarding any additional changes to their requirements around first aid training during the COVID-19 pandemic.

General advice regarding the delivery of face-to-face training

- All RTOs are expected to follow Australian Government advice regarding social distancing, personal hygiene, and when and how to isolate during the COVID-19 pandemic. For further information, please visit the Australian Government Department of Health website at <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>.
- Should your RTO continue to deliver face-to-face, you must ensure there is ample space in the classroom between people, for example by ensuring desks/work stations are adequately separated.
- RTOs should also consider increasing cleaning, particularly of classrooms, toilets, common areas, door handles and equipment.
- Any student who is unwell, or who is required to self-isolate, must not attend class and must be sent home.
- RTOs are advised to check with their relevant jurisdictional health authorities regarding any additional requirements that apply in their location.
- RTOs are also encouraged to contact their VET regulator to discuss adaptive measures for training and assessment strategies being considered during COVID-19.



