**First Aid cover for Schools / EYFS settings and CYP settings –**

**COVID19 and Staff availability**

**UPDATE FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2020 REGARDING PAEDIATRIC REQUALIFICATION GRACE PERIOD AND APRIL FOR 3FAW – SEE END OF ARTICLE**

Questions have been raised concerning the above topic where we have skeleton staff – there is the possibility that schools are low on first aiders and some are saying that there are no paediatric first aid trainers available (or certainly not every day).

SCC Insurance have approved the following temporary guidance issued by Schools and CYP Health and Safety Advisors, under the very different circumstances we find ourselves in:

We always have to point schools to the **DfE Guidance** [**HERE**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/first-aid-in-schools) and also in general to <https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/leadership-staff-development/health-safety-wellbeing/first-aid> for further assistance in terms of ratios in general.  It is recommended that first aiders have paediatric first aid qualifications / certificate for EYFS as the techniques can vary depending on the age of the child. However, our advice **under these different circumstances** is as follows:

1. For schools to do a **dynamic risk assessment** of their situation – work out whether the EYFS children in school at this present time are ‘higher risk’ in general of requiring first aid, and the general availably of first aiders within the school – please also check all first aid stocks
2. For those first aiders in school, seek professional guidance (this could be online or via the telephone) from a nationally recognised first aid body (e.g., St Johns / Red Cross etc) as to the main differences between ordinary and paediatric techniques – this is likely to include choking, CPR and potentially seeking pulse points
3. If already qualified first aiders are willing to then treat paediatric aged children, ensure then that they are aware of those different techniques
4. For schools to try and roster an appropriate first aider on the rota at all times
5. For schools to review and alter as required, their first aid risk assessment, and any specific child’s risk assessment in light of this.

During these unprecedented times we believe our insurances will cover duties performed in good faith. However, we are still **expected to conduct relevant risk assessments to mitigate risk.** It is agreed that schools should consider the likelihood of an incident, ensuring the appropriate personnel are available or if the needs should be catered for elsewhere.

**27 March 2020: Government updated guidance for Early Years and Childcare**

**What happens if staff need to renew their paediatric first aid certificates?**

If paediatric first aid certificate requalification training is prevented for reasons associated directly with coronavirus (COVID-19) or by complying with related government advice, the validity of current certificates can be extended by up to 3 months. This applies to certificates expiring on or after 16 March 2020. **THIS WAS ALSO EXTENDED TO THE THREE DAY FIRST AID AT WORK CERTIFICATE IN EARLY APRIL 2020.**

**Any further and specific queries to** **Nina.bickerton@suffolk.gov.uk** **and** **Penny.shenfield@suffolk.gov.uk**