

## COVID-19 PATIENT TREATMENT GUIDELINES

The following process should be followed if approached by any patient while on patrol:

Continue to use DRSABCD to assess all patients. However, as part of the initial DANGER step, ask the following three questions:

- Have you had any flu-like symptoms?
- Have you been in isolation within the past 14 days?
- Have you, or someone you have been in contact with, been overseas in the past 14 days?

If the patient or their guardian answers NO:

Provide assistance as normal, with a heightened awareness for COVID-19. Use available PPE, social distancing guidelines and hygiene principles, and wash hands thoroughly.

If the patient or their guardian answers YES to any of the above questions:

1. Move to a safe distance to avoid the risk of infection
2. Isolate the patient if possible
3. If available, provide the patient with a surgical mask and instruct them how to fit it (unless this will aggravate any existing breathing difficulties)
4. Reassure the patient and call 000/SurfCom for QAS assistance

Treatment should only continue if you can do so from a safe distance. If you can remain at a safe distance of at least 1.5m in a well-ventilated area, provide reassurance and assist the patient as best you can. You may need to talk them through first aid steps, including how to apply a bandage, clean a wound, remain still for a spinal. If it is not life-threatening, refer them to seek further medical assistance, instructing them to call ahead. All waste needs to be placed into a medical disposal bin.

If you are unable to treat the patient from a safe distance, provide reassurance and call 000/Surfcom for QAS assistance, ensuring you mention your COVID-19 concerns.

If it is a life-threatening situation and the patient cannot respond to questions:

Lifeguards and lifesavers are advised to ensure their own safety as a priority, including the use of a surgical mask and gloves as a minimum precaution, or a (fit-checked) P2/N95 respirator and eye protection, if available. Upon completion of care:

1. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene
2. Remove eyewear, mask and perform hand hygiene

Note: Lifesavers/Lifeguards who have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 should isolate immediately and notify their respective Duty Officer or Lifeguard Supervisor.

Links:

Information for paramedics and ambulance first responders

QLD Health