

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION  
RESIDENTIAL HABILITATION CENTER  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

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TITLE: CPR DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROCEDURE 105.4

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**PURPOSE**

To establish procedures for providing safe and effective CPR during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all Residential Habilitation Center staff, volunteers, interns, and contractors.

**PROCEDURES**

- A. When an employee encounters a person who appears to not be breathing or does not have a pulse and requires CPR, the employee must assume control of resuscitation efforts.
- B. To protect themselves from possible COVID-19 exposure during resuscitation, RHC employees will do the following procedures:
  1. Keep wearing a mask.
  2. Place a procedure mask on the person. Do not delay chest compressions while waiting for the procedure mask.
  3. Start continuous chest compressions until medical personnel arrive. Do not attempt mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
  4. Qualified health professionals may use their judgement and, if available, use an Ambu (bag/valve/mask) device with an in-line viral filter to assist with administering oxygen and ventilating the person.
  5. If no Ambu bag is available, place an oxygen mask over the person's mouth with a procedure mask over it to provide passive oxygenation to the patient.
  6. Evaluate the situation for use of defibrillator or other measures.

**REFERENCE**

Edelson et al.: [\*Interim Guidance for Life Support for COVID-19\*](#)  
American Heart Association (AHA) (2020)  
Correspondence AHA: Comilla Sasson MD, PhD

[First Aid/CPR/AED Care During COVID-19](#)

**DEFINITIONS**

**Ambu bag** means a hand-held device commonly used to provide positive pressure ventilation to patients who are not breathing or not breathing adequately.

**Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation** or (**CPR**) means an emergency procedure that combines chest compressions, often with artificial ventilation, in an effort to manually preserve intact brain function until further measures are taken to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing in a person who is in cardiac arrest.

**Defibrillator** means an apparatus used to control heart fibrillation by application of an electric current to the chest wall or heart.

**SUPERSESSION**

None.

Approved: /s/: Debbie Roberts Date: January 15, 2021  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
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