**First Aid Training during COVID-19 Briefing – 18/01/21**

Dear Executive Directors, Directors and Governors

Further to previous guidance on the delivery of staff training during current national restrictions, please see the below update on the delivery of first aid training and the maintenance of first aid cover during this period.

First Aid Training is essential, as it is critical to the safety of all  staff, residents, visitors and contractors within the Prison Estate. Immediate first aid also prevents the escalation of injuries becoming serious and placing an additional burden on the NHS at this difficult time. Ambulance responses to Prisons may also be delayed during the current demand on this service from COVID-19 patients.

First Aid training is necessary to maintain competence of staff as first aiders and can therefore continue in national lockdown and stage 4 regimes by exception, where there is an essential need to ensure levels of first aiders on site do not become critical and suspension will lead to significant numbers of staff being unable to safely perform first aid duties.

All decisions to facilitate first aid training must be made in consultation with local trade union officials. Governors can by exception deliver first aid training sessions in adherence with published LOPs, risk assessments, advice, and guidance from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advice and policy still allows first aid training to be delivered, providing it is done in a Covid secure way and environment.  There have been no changes to the certificate validity extensions, as set out in the follow guidance:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/first-aid-and-medicals/first-aid-certificate-coronavirus.htm#qualifications>

In light of the latest restrictions in England and Wales, the HSE are keeping this guidance under constant review and any changes or updates will be published on these pages.

Please contact [COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk) with any further queries on this matter.

Kind Regards,

COVID-19 Regime Management Team