

First Aid – Covid 19 – Interim Guidance – Updated – 8th October 2020

With the continuation of Covid restrictions, social distancing requirements, local lockdowns and advice on shielding, etc, the BWY guidance on for teachers (diploma and certificate holders) on renewing First Aid certification has been reviewed and is now as follows:

- We are extending the 'grace period' for renewing First Aid certification to 31st March 2021
- Online 'refresher' courses are optional – these normally give an extension of certification for one year. They are not equivalent to the Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAAW) course and will not give 3 years certification. There are links to some providers of online courses below.
- Teachers are encouraged to renew their EFAAW 3-year certification as soon as possible. Some trainers are still providing this training face to face and some regions are still offering courses with their regular trainers. See the BWY website for further details.

This guidance is issued after consultation with our verified First Aid tutors and with reference to current guidance on the HSE website. The most important points are:

- BWY 'best practice' is that all BWY teachers should hold a current EFAAW certificate.
- All our verified First Aid trainers advise that EFAAW courses must be face to face as certain elements, most importantly CPR, can only be practised and assessed in a face to face setting.
- A number of planned First Aid courses have been cancelled or postponed and some tutors are suspending all EFAAW courses, possibly until Spring 2021 or beyond.
- Our insurers are satisfied with BWY's guidance on 'best practice' for First Aid training – and holding certification is not mandatory for the BWY teaching insurance to be valid.

Advice for DCT's (running teacher training courses) and student teachers:

- Whilst it is considered 'best practice' for all student teachers who are teaching or intending to teach imminently to obtain First Aid certification (EFAAW) it is not mandatory and does not affect their insurance.
- In some regions there are trainers who are prepared to deliver face to face First Aid courses. Where these are available and can be accessed students should be encouraged to attend.
- Student teachers may choose to complete an online First Aid course. Note that these courses are normally 'refreshers' and do not replace the 'best practice' advice to attend a full face to face EFAAW course at the earliest opportunity.

We will continue to liaise with all our verified First Aid trainers and keep teachers informed via the BWY website, Spectrum, e-communications and social media of any changes in this guidance.

Online training providers offering refresher courses:

<https://www.trainingexpress.org.uk/course/workplace-first-aid-training/>

<https://www.mgmtraining.co.uk/>

FFI on HSE guidance:

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

Online teaching: We have been asked if First Aid certificates are still needed when we are only teaching online. The answer is **YES** – as this is still 'best practice'. Although the course is not mandatory for insurance purposes – it is considered 'best practice' for all BWY yoga teachers to have this training in place at all times.

Teaching 'socially distanced' one to one or small groups (within current government guidance): as above – having First Aid training in place is best practice. Note that current government guidelines on giving First Aid should be adhered to. These can be checked using the link above.

Eve Douglas – BWY CPD officer – October 2020