

Adult Basic Life Support Algorithm for Healthcare Providers for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Text in cascading boxes describes the actions that a provider should perform in sequence during cardiac arrest of an adult with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Arrows guide providers from one box to the next as they perform the actions. Some boxes have multiple arrows that lead outward, each to a different treatment pathway depending on the outcome of the most recent action taken. Pathways are hyperlinked.

Box 1

There is an icon in this box that signifies the use of personal protective equipment appropriate for aerosol-generating procedures, or AGP: respirator (eg, N95), along with gown, gloves, and eye protection.

Verify scene safety. Proceed to [Box 2](#).

Box 2

- Check for responsiveness.
- Shout for nearby help.
- Activate the emergency response system via mobile device (if appropriate).
- Get an AED and emergency equipment (or send someone to do so).

Proceed to [Box 3](#).

Box 3

Look for no breathing or only gasping and check pulse (simultaneously).

Is a pulse **definitely** felt within 10 seconds?

If the person is breathing normally and has a pulse, proceed to [Box 3a](#).

If the person is not breathing normally but has a pulse, proceed to [Box 3b](#).

If the person is not breathing or is only gasping and no pulse is felt, proceed to [Box 4](#).

Box 3a

Monitor the person until emergency responders arrive.

Box 3b

There is an icon in this box that signifies the use of a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter.

- Provide rescue breathing, 1 breath every 6 seconds or 10 breaths per minute **using a HEPA filter with bag-mask ventilation**. (This step includes suspected AGP, on the basis of current studies.)
- Check pulse every 2 minutes; if no pulse, start CPR.
- If it is a possible opioid overdose, administer naloxone if available per protocol.

Box 4

By this time in all scenarios, emergency response system or backup is activated, and AED and emergency equipment are retrieved or someone is retrieving them.

There is an icon in this box that signifies the use of a HEPA filter.

Start CPR

- Perform cycles of 30 compressions and 2 breaths. (This step includes suspected AGP, on the basis of current studies.)
- Use the AED as soon as it is available.

Proceed to [Box 5](#).

Box 5

The AED arrives. Proceed to [Box 6](#).

Box 6

The AED checks the rhythm. Is the rhythm shockable?

If Yes, the rhythm is shockable, proceed to [Box 7](#).

If No, the rhythm is nonshockable, proceed to [Box 8](#).

Box 7

- Give 1 shock. (This step includes suspected AGP, on the basis of current studies.) Resume CPR immediately for 2 minutes (until prompted by the AED to allow rhythm check).
- Continue until advanced life support providers take over or the victim starts to move. Return to [Box 6](#), if necessary.

Box 8

- Resume CPR immediately for 2 minutes (until prompted by the AED to allow rhythm check).
- Continue until advanced life support providers take over or the victim starts to move. Return to [Box 6](#), if necessary.