BLS Healthcare Provider Adult Cardiac Arrest Algorithm for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

Updated April 2020

Verify scene safety
- **Don PPE**
- **Limit personnel**

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Victim is unresponsive.
Shout for nearby help.
Activate emergency response system via mobile device (if appropriate).
Get AED and emergency equipment (or send someone to do so).

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Look for no breathing or only gasping and check pulse (simultaneously). Is pulse definitely felt within 10 seconds?

Normal breathing, has pulse →
Monitor until emergency responders arrive.

No normal breathing, has pulse →
- Provide rescue breathing **using bag-mask device with filter and tight seal.**
- 1 breath every 5-6 seconds, or about 10-12 breaths/min.
- Activate emergency response system (if not already done) after 2 minutes.
- Continue rescue breathing; check pulse about every 2 minutes. If no pulse, begin CPR (go to **"CPR"** box).
- If possible opioid overdose, administer naloxone if available per protocol.

No breathing or only gasping, no pulse

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.

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CPR
Begin cycles of 30 compressions and 2 breaths
using bag-mask device with filter and tight seal
OR
continuous compressions with passive oxygenation using face mask.
Use AED as soon as it is available.

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AED arrives.

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Check rhythm. Shockable rhythm?

Yes, shockable →
Give 1 shock. Resume CPR immediately for about 2 minutes (until prompted by AED to allow rhythm check).
Continue until ALS providers take over or victim starts to move.

No, nonshockable →
Resume CPR immediately for about 2 minutes (until prompted by AED to allow rhythm check). Continue until ALS providers take over or victim starts to move.