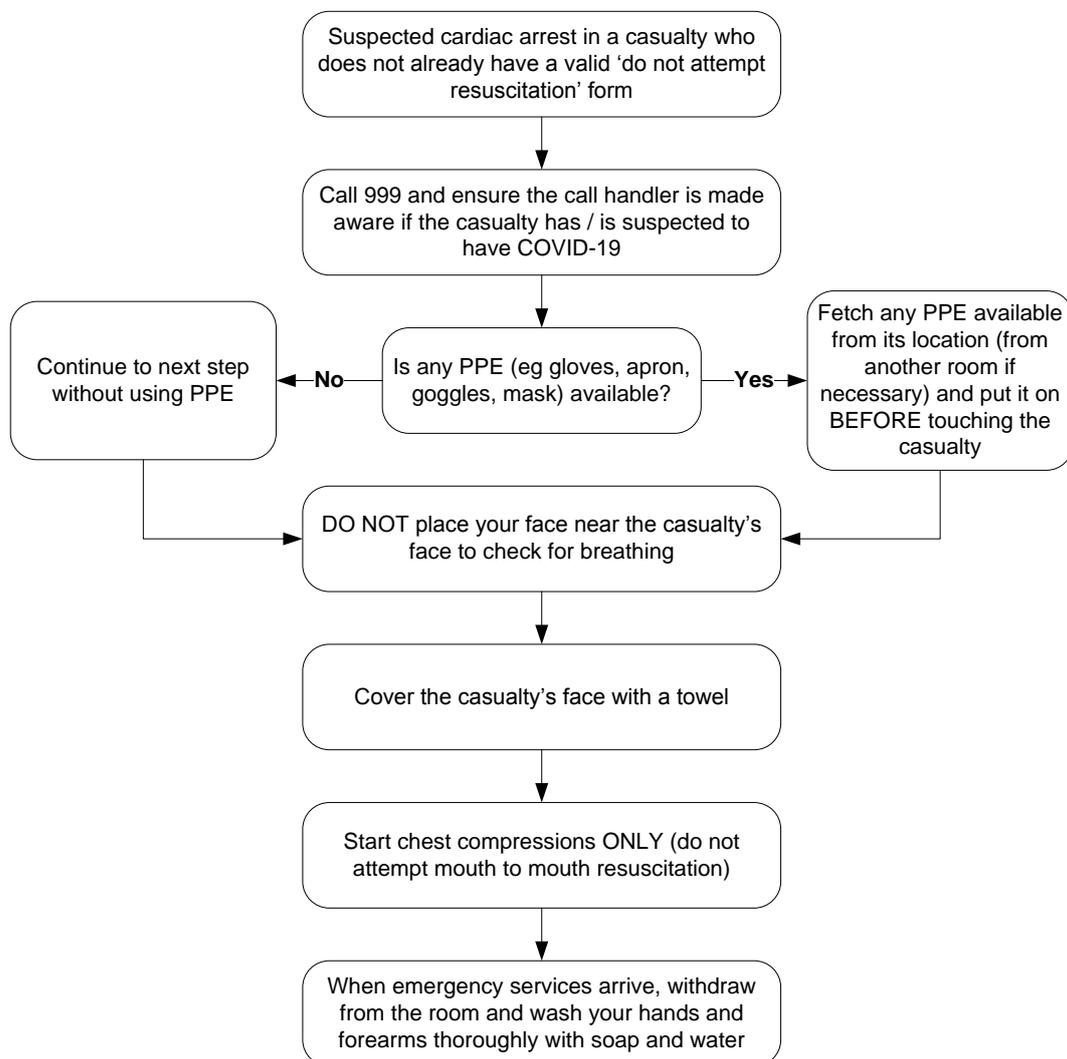


MANAGEMENT OF CARDIAC ARREST IN A CARE HOME OR IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

You may have lots of concerns as a front line care worker about your own safety and the safety of your clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following guideline for cardiac arrest represents a way to provide immediate lifesaving care to a casualty whilst protecting yourself during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is based on the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines for resuscitation in a community setting. The guideline may change as we learn more about this new virus.

No close personal contact during the pandemic could be classed as risk-free. The virus is spread by droplets, for example when someone coughs or sneezes. Some people were worried that droplets could be formed during chest compressions, but Public Health England and the World Health Organisation do not believe this to be the case. Placing a towel over the casualty's face during chest compressions is, however, still recommended.

MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED CARDIAC ARREST IN A CARE HOME OR IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Explanatory notes:

This algorithm is based on the Resuscitation Council (UK) guideline for resuscitation in a community setting during the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://www.resus.org.uk/media/statements/resuscitation-council-uk-statements-on-covid-19-coronavirus-cpr-and-resuscitation/covid-community/>).

Public Health England and The World Health Organisation do not consider chest compressions alone to be an aerosol generating procedure (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-ambulance-trusts/covid-19-guidance-for-ambulance-trusts>, https://www.who.int/csr/bioriskreduction/infection_control/publication/en/).