



FIRST AID COURSES FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE

In the past, designated lists of first aid courses were identified as being approved. As of November 2007, changes to the *Child Care Regulation 332/2007* now require Licensees to ensure that a first aid course taken by their staff meets the criteria outlined in the new regulation. Unfortunately specific lists of approved first aid courses can no longer be provided by Community Care Licensing.

***If you have a current valid first aid course which was identified in the old child care regulation it is still valid until the expiry date on the certificate.**

What does the legislation say about first aid training courses for licensing staff?

Child Care Licensing Regulation Section 23

(1) A licensee must ensure that children have at all times immediate access to an employee who

- (a) holds a valid first aid and CPR certificate, provided on completion of a course that meets the requirements of Schedule C,*
- (b) is knowledgeable respecting each child's medical condition, if any, and*
- (c) is capable of effectively communicating with emergency personnel.*

***For the complete list of requirements, please see Schedule C Section 23 [first aid] of the *Child Care Regulation*.**

Here is a summary of the requirements:

An employee must hold a valid first aid and CPR certificate from a course that meets the following requirements:

- the course has at least 8 hours of instruction
- the instructor must be certified by the agency that is issuing the first aid certificate
- the certification agency must be the Canadian Ski Patrol, the Lifesaving Society, the
- Canadian Red Cross, the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation or St. John Ambulance of Canada

The First Aid Certificate:

- is issued only after the individual has successfully completed an examination that includes demonstration and evaluation of relevant skills
- signed by the instructor
- expires no more than 3 years from the date of issue, and
- is not renewable unless the holder, before the expiry date, participates in at least 8 hours of further instruction (see the regulation for more details)

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A child care first aid course must cover topics relevant to children and infants including:

(a) management of an emergency scene;	(j) spinal and head injuries;
(b) assessment of a patient;	(k) dental emergencies;
(c) cardiopulmonary resuscitation skills recognized as CPR Level B or equivalent;	(l) fractures of the upper and lower limbs, including bone and joint injuries;
(d) fainting and unconsciousness;	(m) cardiovascular emergencies;
(e) shock;	(n) burns;
(f) choking;	(o) electric shock;
(g) wounds and severe bleeding;	(p) poisoning;
(h) insect, animal and human bites;	(q) environmental injuries, including exposure to heat or cold;
(i) eye injuries;	(r) common medical conditions, including diabetes, epilepsy, convulsions and allergic reactions

Resources

The local Child Care Resource & Referral Program may be of assistance in finding appropriate courses. To find the office closest to your location go to http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/cc_resource.htm