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May 1, 2020

**To:** All Communications Centre Staff

**From:** Mark Toman  
A/Deputy Chief, Communications

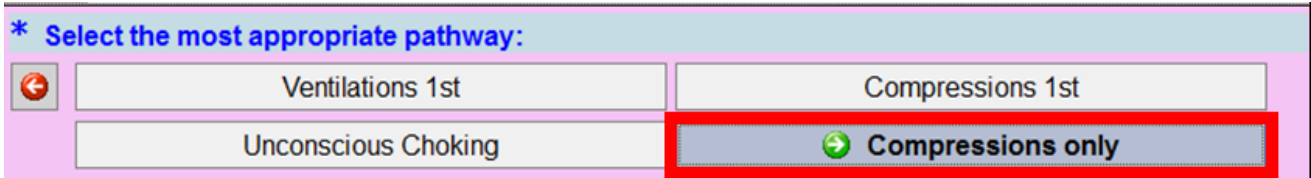
Dr. Russell MacDonald  
Medical Director, CACC

**Re: CPR Instructions during the COVID-19 Pandemic**



Effective immediately, all CPR instructions are to be provided following the "Compressions only" pathway to help minimize the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19. EMDs and Call Takers must **no longer provide mouth-to-mouth instructions** to callers, regardless of the suspected cause of the cardiac arrest.

The two places in the pathway where this may occur, and what you should do when presented with them, are as follows:

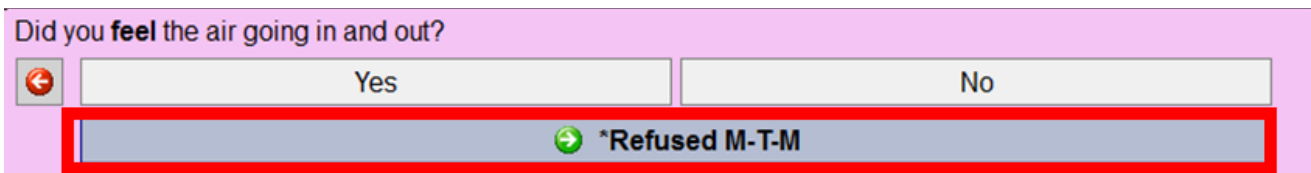
1) Until further notice, when presented with the *pathway director* panel, **always select the "Compressions only" link**:




\* Select the most appropriate pathway:

 Ventilations 1st	Compressions 1st
Unconscious Choking	 <b>Compressions only</b>

2) Until further notice, when mouth-to-mouth instructions are recommended by protocol (for example, when the "Hanging" Fast Track is used), **always select the "\*\*Refused M-T-M" link**. Once this is selected, ProQA will follow the same pathway as "Compressions only":



Did you **feel** the air going in and out?

 Yes	No
 <b>*Refused M-T-M</b>	

In addition to compressions-only CPR, callers will be advised to "place a light cloth over the patient's mouth and nose during compressions" for all patients in cardiac arrest. This instruction comes from a new rule that will be incorporated into a future version of Protocol 9:

*If an airborne-transmitted communicable disease is suspected or confirmed in an adult (≥8) cardiac arrest patient, either through caller information, dispatch screening, or public health authority, **advise the caller to place a light cloth or piece of light clothing over the patient's mouth and nose during compressions** to decrease the circulation of aerosolized particles.*

As this instruction is not yet included in ProQA, a reminder to provide compressions-only CPR and to place a light cloth over the patient's mouth and nose will be added to the Active Desktop.

If you have any questions, please contact [emscommedqi@toronto.ca](mailto:emscommedqi@toronto.ca).

Sincerely,

*(Original signed by)*  
Mark Toman

*(Original signed by)*  
Dr. Russell MacDonald

c.: G. McEachen, Deputy Chiefs, Deputy Commanders, Communications Review, DOC, Multimedia