



Lifeguard Service Monitoring Report 2020
Hastings Borough Council

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This report outlines the provision of RNLI Lifeguard services on behalf of Hastings Borough Council, East Sussex.

This has been the fourth year that the RNLI has provided a lifeguard service in Hastings Pelham, Hastings Pier and Marina St. Leonards for Hastings Borough Council (HBC). The management team that has provided the service on behalf of HBC consists of: Glen Mallen (Lifesaving Manager - South East), Mark Castle Smith (Regional Lifesaving Lead - South East), Joseph Mitchell (Area Lifesaving Manager), Hugh Richardson (Lead Lifeguard Supervisor), Georgia Landy (Lifeguard Supervisor) & Sophie Driver (LOA). Technical support and maintenance has been provided by Louis McCarthy, Ryan Field, Paul Higgs & Richard Staff. Press / Media support was provided by Paul Dunt, Julie Rainey and Kt Bruce (Volunteer Press Officer).

The RNLI provided induction training for all seasonal lifeguards - (Due to C-19 induction programmes via e-learning were implemented accommodating for main season and peak season lifeguards. The induction training programmes consisted of the following;

(Adaptations to courses were implemented due to C-19. Mitigations were put in place to ensure the safety of all personnel facilitating and training)

- RNLI Casualty Care for Lifeguards course. An advanced first aid course including oxygen therapy, defibrillator training, and basic drug administration. Approved and endorsed by the British Paramedic Association. (Could not carry out this year due to C-19 however course has a 3-year expiry, returners were valid for the season and training was carried out when needed. Adaptations were made throughout the RNLI on CPR and any changes that occurred all lifeguards were informed and trained.
- RNLI Lifeguard Induction course which includes; safety and well-being training, PPE, manual handling training and public interaction skills. (Inductions were carried out via E-Learning booklets. PPE was supplied for C-19 the following PPE was given to each lifeguard - facemask, goggles, face shields, apron, gloves.
- RYA SRC VHF radio operator. (Will be sending Lifeguards on courses in 2021)
- Equipment Operator training for Rescue Watercraft (RWC), All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Four-Wheel Drive (4WD). (We now have four trainer assessors on all equipment, allowing us to do all internal training for season 2021)
- Familiarisation and training with other SAR organisations (HM Coastguard, RNLI Lifeboats, South East Coast Ambulance service) and extensive local familiarisation scenarios on the beaches. (Not possible due to C-19, however worked closely with all organisations when operating this season).
- Hastings Volunteer Ambassador training (Not possible due to C-19, will be carrying training out next season)
- Specified beaches have an appointed Senior Lifeguard who undergoes further operational command and operation leadership training.
- In addition to the induction training, all lifeguards attended ongoing weekly training, attending at least one hour of paid lifeguard training each week. These

training sessions are split into four categories; Team Building; Casualty Care; Lifeguard Skills & Fitness Testing. These roll on a 4 weekly basis to ensure that training is varied and relevant to all the skills needed to work on the beach. (Due to C-19 weekly training was not carried out, but ongoing training in work time was carried out to ensure lifeguards stayed competent)

- All RNLI Lifeguard units were declared to HMCG Solent on a daily basis. The Lifeguard Supervisors declared manning levels, equipment, and standard hours of operation each day. All of the beach lifeguard units were tasked by HMCG Solent on multiple occasions throughout the season. A full breakdown of operational statistics can be seen in section 5 and 6 in this report.
- As part of our wider commitment to improve beach safety within the East Sussex area, we have set up our ambassador's programme in which we have Lifeguards volunteer to attend events & schools/ colleges to assist in both recruitment and education. (Due to lockdown we were unable to attend all school talks and job fairs, when allowed we will be carrying out these as normal)
- In addition to the lifeguard service provision and education programme, the RNLI management team have been working closely with local clubs and reviewed all risk assessments for lifeguarded beaches in Hastings and Rother.

2. COVID-19 Considerations

1. Covid-19

- 1.1. What is Covid-19
- 1.2. How is Covid-19 spread
- 1.3. What are the symptoms of Covid-19
- 1.4. What do I do if I suspect I have Covid-19
- 1.5. Who is at risk of Covid-19
- 1.6. Testing

2. Lifeguard Safety

- 2.1. General principles
- 2.2. Social distancing
- 2.3. Hygiene
- 2.4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- 2.5. Waste disposal
- 2.6. Alternative working practices
- 2.7. Welfare
- 2.8. Reporting
- 2.9. Logistics and Supply

3. Lifeguard Operations

- 3.1. Operating principles
- 3.2. Rotas and working in teams
- 3.3. Patrol options

4. Rescue

- 4.1. Safe rescue principles
- 4.2. Reducing contact in rescues
- 4.3. Missing persons

5. Casualty Care

- 5.1. Principles of casualty care in a Covid-19 scenario
- 5.2. Initial assessment
- 5.3. The unconscious casualty
- 5.4. Covid-19 considerations (Check card)
- 5.5. Major first aid (Big sick) - Conscious casualty
- 5.6. Minor first aid (Little sick)
- 5.7. General safety reminders

6. Decontamination and Disposal

- 6.1. Decontamination
- 6.2. Disposal

7. Training and Medicals

- 7.1. Training
- 7.2. Medicals

8. Governance

- 8.1. Nine tests
- 8.2. Change management and approvals

Above shows the RNLI's considerations put in place this 2020 season during C-19. This report will only focus on a few considerations, these being deemed the most important and relevant for Hastings Borough Council. If there is any desire to gain more information regarding any of these please ask. The following considerations in this report will be the following;

- Lifeguard Safety
- Lifeguard Operations
- Rescues
- Casualty Care

Lifeguard Safety

The safety of our employees is paramount especially during C-19. Lifeguard safety is covers five points;

- Social Distancing
- Hygiene
- PPE
- Waste disposal
- Welfare

Social Distancing

Employees were asked to maintain social distancing as much as possible from their team members and where this was not possible, they would use other control measures, including:

- Minimise direct contact
- Wear appropriate PPE (masks or face shields)
- Avoid sitting facing each other
- Barriers and one-way systems when they are established
- Increase hygiene

Social distancing was maintained with the public by use of space and physical barriers unless absolutely necessary and then:

- Minimise the number of lifeguards who come into contact
- Reduce the contact to a minimum
- Wear appropriate PPE (masks and/or face shields, aprons and gloves)
- Wash hands after any contact with the public (public is inclusive of all people including other emergency services personnel, casualties, etc)

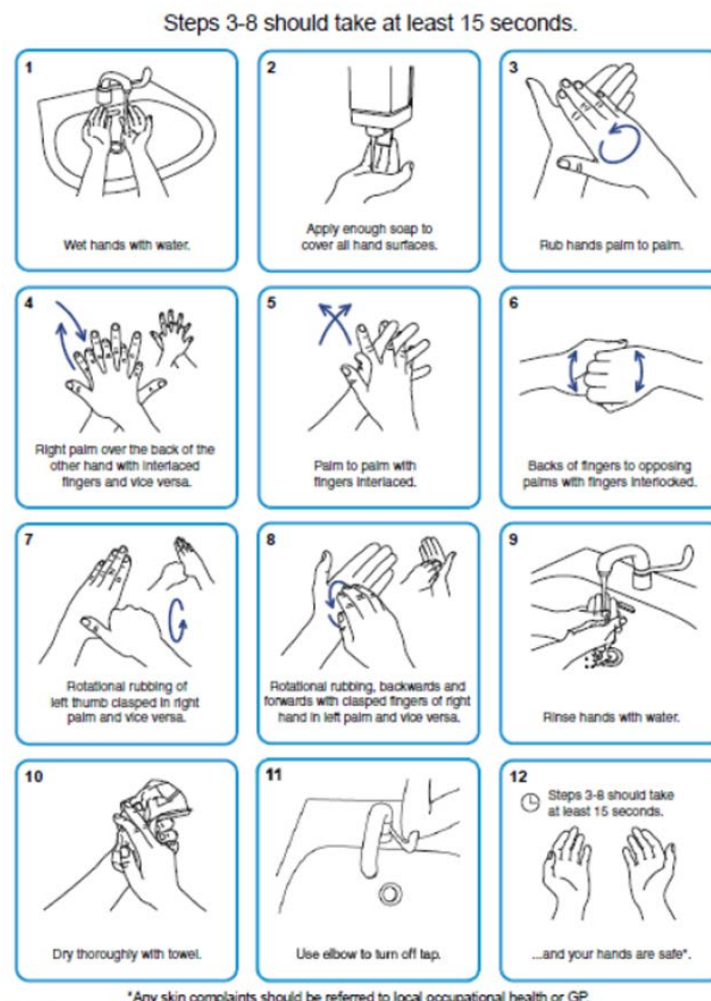
Hygiene

The best way to protect employees and others is through rigorous cleaning, personal hygiene and regular hand hygiene:

- Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces and equipment, using the correct cleaning products provided.
- Before and after contact with members of the public, hands cleaned thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity.
- Avoid touching mouth, eyes and nose.
- If uniform came in close contact with a person suspected of having Covid-19 then it was changed and cleaned.

Hygiene: Washing Hands

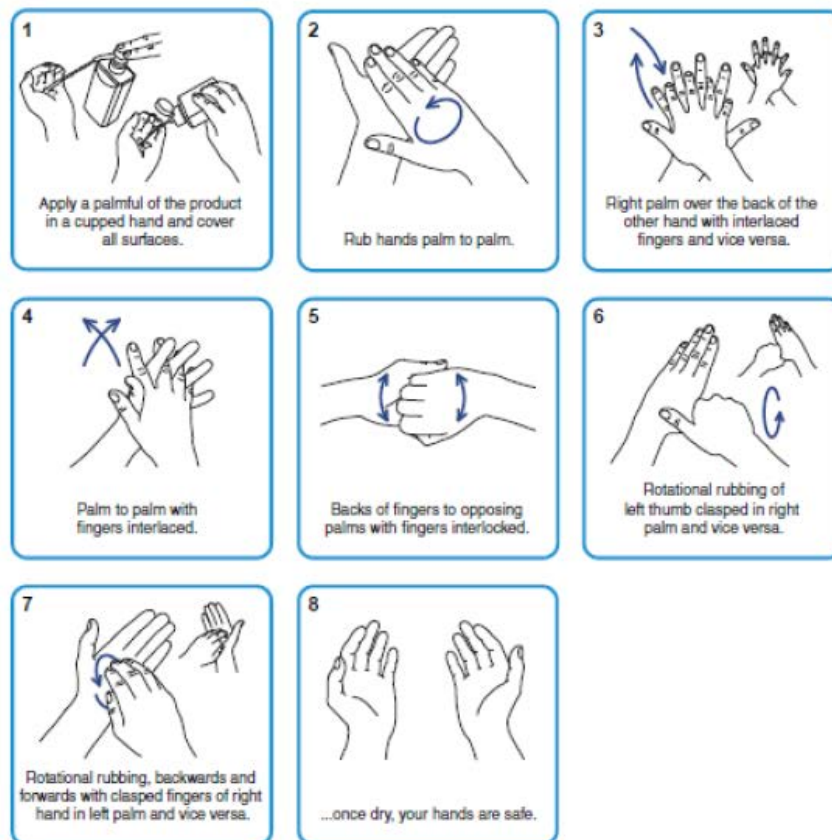
Regular and washing with soap and water is one of the most effective protections against the spread of the Covid-19 virus.



Hygiene: Hand Run/Sanitiser

Hand sanitiser with a high alcohol content is an effective alternative to soap and water.

Duration of the process: 20-30 seconds.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In addition to the PPE that has previously been provided additional PPE was supplied to help ensure employees safety:

- Face shields and safety glasses (to be worn during casualty care and close proximity public interactions - within 2 metres)
- Face masks (to be worn routinely and during casualty care)
- Aprons (to be worn during casualty care)
- Gloves (to be worn during casualty care, cleaning and when touching high traffic surfaces areas that have not been cleaned)
- Operational PPE (worn as usual and was not worn as an additional barrier)

Gloves and gowns were single use items and once used were disposed of.

Face masks were changed when they become moist or damaged and worn once and then discarded. They were disposed of after any contact with a casualty.

Glasses, face shields and operational PPE could be decontaminated.


PPE: Donning or Putting on

For the PPE to be at its most effective it needed to be correctly donned and if available ask someone to check it is correctly fitted.


Donning or putting on PPE

Before putting on the PPE, perform hand hygiene. Use alcohol handrub or gel or soap and water. Make sure you are hydrated and are not wearing any jewellery, bracelets, watches or stoned rings.


1 Put on your plastic apron, making sure it is tied securely at the back.




2 Put on your surgical face mask, if tied, make sure securely tied at crown and nape of neck. Once it covers the nose, make sure it is extended to cover your mouth and chin.




3 Put on your eye protection if there is a risk of splashing.



4 Put on non-sterile nitrile gloves.



5 You are now ready to enter the patient area.



Note: Face shields were also be provided

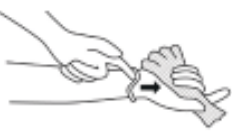
PPE: Doffing or Taking off

To avoid contamination the PPE was removed in the correct sequence.


Doffing or taking off PPE

Surgical masks are single session use, gloves and apron should be changed between patients.


1 Remove gloves, grasp the outside of the cuff of the glove and peel off, holding the glove in the gloved hand. Insert the finger underneath and peel off second glove.



2 Perform hand hygiene using alcohol hand gel or rub, or soap and water.




3 Snap or unfasten apron ties the neck and allow to fall forward.




Snap waste ties and fold apron in on itself, not handling the outside as it is contaminated, and put into clinical waste.


4 Once outside the patient room. Remove eye protection.




5 Perform hand hygiene using alcohol hand gel or rub, or soap and water.



6 Remove surgical mask.



7 Now wash your hands with soap and water.



Waste Disposal

Increased care was required around the disposal of waste which with the increased use of PPE it was expected to significantly increase:

- All PPE was treated as clinical waste.
- All materials used in cleaning a post Covid-19 exposure was treated as clinical waste.
- Local operating procedure were followed for waste disposal.

Welfare

This year has been potentially a stressful time for many employees working for the RNLI. The RNLI stressed that if an employee was needing support, they could refer to the following support systems through their line manager to access the support they needed.

Support 24/7

Volunteers

0800 116 4362

TRiM

07584 613612

trim@rnli.org.uk

COIR

UK Freephone: 0800 011 3129

Watchkeeper@rnli.org.uk

RNLI Employees

0800 042 0138

Lifeguard Operations

Operating principles

The focus of operations is to keep our people safe. To do this we followed the safe guidance and minimised potential exposure through:

- Eliminating exposure where possible.
- Reduce the amount and levels of contact.

Rotas and working in teams

Rotas for all activities including administration, logistics, training and patrolling/lifeguarding were designed to keep teams separate to reduce the risk of cross infection across a large number of lifeguards.

Teams on the beach minimised shared use of equipment and where possible identified designated persons to roles that required using shared equipment including base radios, PA systems, etc.

Lifeguards were encouraged to minimise close contact between teams after hours.

Patrol options (Four-tiered Approach)

Supervision (Full Service)

Lifeguards are able to operate to their full capacity. There is a designated bathing area in between the Red and Yellow Flags. Lifeguards can safely patrol and take preventative actions to keep beach users safe.

Monitor (Proactive)

Due to the volume of beach visitors using the bathing area. Users can no longer socially distance, flags are removed, and the beach users are notified. All other lifeguard actions remain the same and they remain proactive.

Observe (reactive)

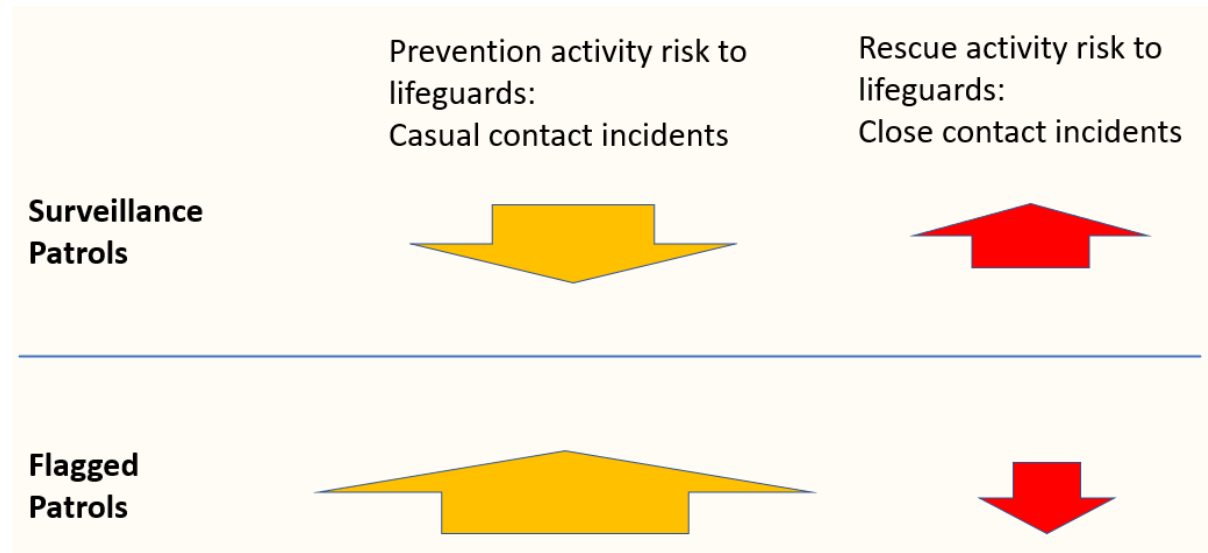
This is a reactive only service when social distancing is not possible, they will only act in an emergency. They will be positioned in high risk areas where they can still socially distance, but no patrolling or prevention is able to be achieved. Positions of safety would be at the lifeguard unit or in the water.

Withdraw

Lifeguards make it clear to the public it is not safe for the beach to remain supervised and the lifeguards will be returning to a safe area where they will not be able to respond due to risk to themselves. This would only be likely to occur in the event of severe anti-social behaviour or catastrophic event. RNLI Management and LA would be part of this group discussion.

Patrol options: comparative risk

When determining which patrol options will provide safety for both the public and the lifeguards there is a balance between an increase in exposure to 'casual contact' incident versus 'close contact' incidents (those that represent the greatest risk to the lifeguards).



The senior lifeguard in consultation with their team and where possible the lifeguard supervisor would continually assess the conditions and visitor numbers and the public's compliance with social distancing measures to determine which patrol method would be adopted and if appropriate changed during the day.

Ultimately if the lifeguard team felt that there was an excessive risk, they should use the patrol type options to provide a level of patrol that keeps them safe or withdraw and report appropriately.

Lifeguards were not to attempt to regulate social distancing, this was the responsibility of the local authorities. Anti-social behaviour was reported to the police as per normal protocols.

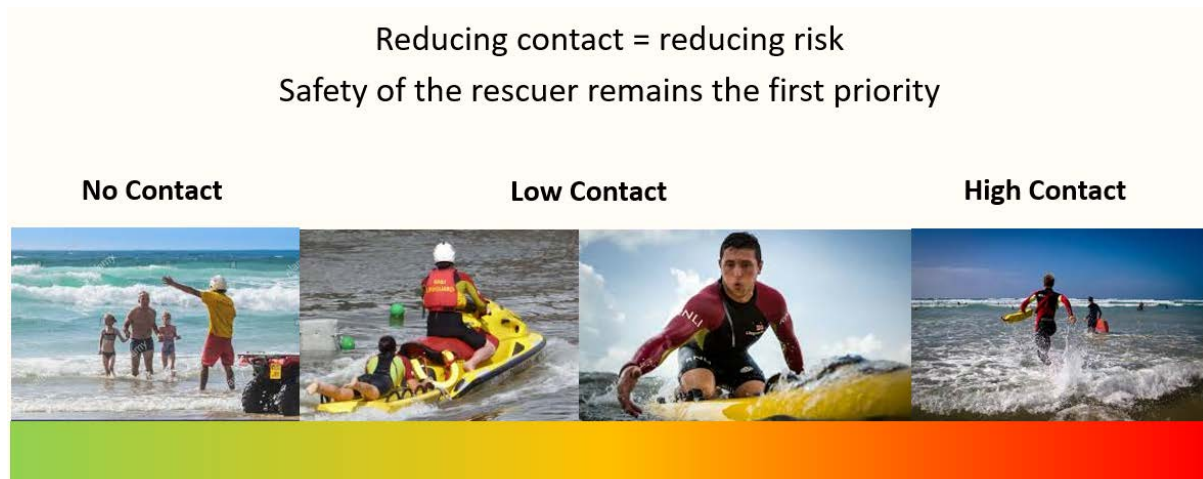
Rescue

Safe rescue principles

To ensure the safety of the rescuer the following principles were applied:

- Prioritise own safety - adopt a stance of safety of the rescuer first
- Employees are unlikely to be able to identify a Covid-19 carrier during a rescue - employees had to assume all casualties potentially have the virus.
- Prevention, Prevention, Prevention
- Reduce contact in rescue
- When working with other agencies social distancing was maintained as much as reasonably practicable
- Hand over to personnel in full PPE was done as soon as possible
- Decontaminate of all equipment that came into contact with casualty was carried out.

Reducing contact in rescues was followed out in accordance to the diagram below.



Casualty care

Principles of casualty care in a Covid-19 scenario

- Prioritise your own safety - adopt a stance of safety of the rescuer first
- Employees were unlikely to be able to identify a Covid-19 carrier during a rescue - assume all casualties potential have the virus
- Lifeguards were not acting as 'first responders' , waited for the ambulance service
- We eliminated or reduced contact during casualty care
- Expedite hand over to ambulance as soon as possible
- It was made aware that employees are in a quickly changing environment and organisations may be applying variations to different levels of care based on their interpretation of available guidance and the equipment they may have available.
- We decontaminate all equipment that came into contact with the casualty

Initial Assessment

Employees were trained to assess, from greater than 2 metres distance, whether the casualty does or does not require treatment (this assessment, at a distance, does not require a face mask)

If no casualty care is required, then the casualty should be isolated as far as reasonably practicable and you should keep a minimum distance of 2 metres, recognising it may not be practical in all circumstances.

Casualties were not brought into Beach Lifeguard Units or vehicles. A suitably shielded area, such as behind a windbreak or use of a parasol, were used outside.

The unconscious casualty

Assessment

Airway management was trained to be achieved by a head tilt and chin lift, ensuring to avoid fluids from the casualty's airway, to prevent inhalation of excreted fluids from the casualty.

Employees were trained to not listen or feel for breathing by placing your ear and cheek close to the casualty's mouth. But to look for the rise and fall of the chest using their hand or check cards on the chest as indicated in casualty care training.

Airway management

Airway procedures other than simple head tilt/chin lift were not to be performed, this includes:

- Suction
- Plastic Airway
- Bag Valve Mask/Pocket mask
- Mouth to Mouth ventilations
- Use of oxygen via free flow during CPR

CPR

Providing CPR in the early stages of a cardiac arrest increases the chance of survival, however it is not without risk in a Covid-19 casualty.

Given that there is a risk that CPR may lead to an increased likelihood of transmitting Covid-19. Lifeguards carried out a dynamic risk assessment and followed the guidance below to reduce the risk (although it will not fully eliminate it):

CPR should be chest compressions only:

- Turn the head to one side, and loosely cover the face with a towel, triangular bandage or face mask to minimise contamination from the airway and perform compression-only CPR.
- It is imperative that casualties are evacuated to appropriately trained and equipped personnel who are better placed to safely conduct full CPR. Once an ambulance crew has arrived move away from the scene.

Defibrillation

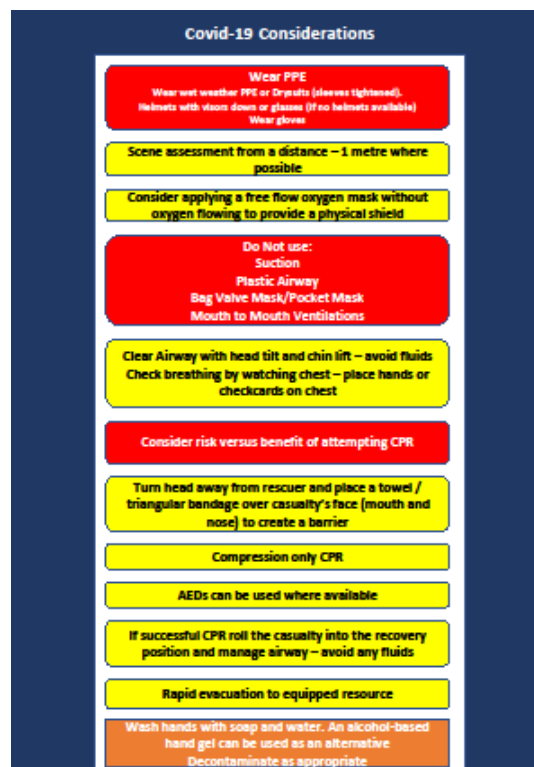
If a defibrillator is available this can be used in line with normal protocols.

General

If a successful outcome is obtained, then the casualty should be rolled into the recovery position to manage the airway.

Care should be taken to avoid any expelled bodily fluid.

Covid-19 Considerations Check Cards



Major first aid (Big sick) - Conscious casualty

Casualty care was only recommended for serious injuries or illness where the casualty is likely to deteriorate.

The minimum number of casualty carers should be used, keeping a minimum distance of 2 metres recognising it may not be practical in all circumstances, keeping direct contact with the casualty to a minimum.

Treat the casualty and then retreat to a safe distance as soon as possible. Ensuring that an ambulance is on route if required

Minor first aid (Little sick)

Casualty care was only recommended for serious injuries or illness where the casualty is likely to deteriorate.

If casualty care is required, encourage the casualty to self-help if possible, and keep your distance greater than 2 metres from them.

- For example - pass them a bandage and instruct them how to put it on themselves or with help from member of the same household.

General safety reminders for lifeguards for this season were the following:

If casualty contact is unavoidable.

For casualty contact (within 2m):

- Wear apron
- Wear safety glasses or helmets visors down (if worn) or face shield
- Wear a fluid repellent surgical face mask.
- Wear first aid gloves ensuring your open wounds are covered

Coughing and Spluttering Casualty

For a casualty who has been rescued but is coughing and spluttering, if possible, offer the casualty a facemask (if available) in order to provide a physical shield to the rescuer.

If the casualty requires oxygen, the oxygen mask will provide similar protection. If a facemask is inappropriate or the environment is too wet, use an oxygen mask without the oxygen connected (Do not use oxygen during CPR).

3. Service Levels 2020 - Hastings

Beach Name	Main Start	No LG's	Peak Start	No LG's	Peak Finish	Main Finish
Hastings Pelham	20/06/2020	3	18/07/2020	3	04/09/2020	27/09/2020
Hastings Pier	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marina, St Leonards	N/A	3	18/07/2020	3	04/09/2020	27/09/2020

Service levels this year for Hastings were affected by C-19. As shown above, we opened Pelham on the 28/06/2020 and then rolled out Marina St Leonards on the 18/07/2020. Hastings Pier was not operational this year as recruitment was affected due to National Vocational Beach Lifeguard Qualifications not running. Service Levels and contract dates for season 2021 can be found in section 7 of the report.

4. Key Performance Indicators

Carry out a Risk Assessment to identify hazards and determine a series of control measures to militate against the 'risk'. These control measures to include where appropriate: provision of public education; safety literature; information and warning signs; zoning; barriers; trained surveillance; first aid; lifeguards (inc. lost children service); and, appropriate equipment.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Full risk audit reviews on all operational beaches with full beach safety assessments to be completed and up to date in 2020.		
Provide a beach safety and rescue service covering a period defined in the Risk Assessment, normally from May to September but which may be reduced or extended either way by agreement with LA based on the Risk Assessment.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Service provided across the area as described in services agreement.		
Provide a beach safety and rescue service on the beaches covering a series of Operational Areas (Beach, Normal and Extended) as agreed with the LA	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Operational areas as agreed and amended in consultation with stakeholders.		
Provide a beach safety and rescue service in accordance with the Local Operating Procedures	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Local operating procedures created, reviewed and updated, copies of which have been made available. Any adjustments reported through end of season report and meetings.		
Ensure the service is provided in accordance with the criteria to comply with the European Blue Flag and/or Seaside Award standards where necessary.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Lifeguard service provided at agreed designated locations. Hastings Pier was not operational this season.		

Complete incident reports, daily logs and staffing level records on a daily basis to be made available to the LA on request and included in an annual report to the LA.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Achieved. No information requested but provided within this report.		
Observe the provisions of the LA's Health and Safety at Work Policy and Safety Working Practices together with the best practice lifeguarding principles ("Safety on British Beaches") wherever appropriate.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Achieved. No information requested.		
Ensure lifeguards observe high standards of courtesy and consideration towards members of the public at all times.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	No complaints received.		
Inform the LA's appropriate officer responsible for environmental services regarding any beach cleaning requirements or pollution incidents.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Incidents reported in timely manner.		
Ensure that so far as reasonable all public relations, incident data, publicity and media releases are agreed between the parties beforehand.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Achieved.		
Recognise the Local Authority on all signs	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Council provided signage.		
Keep the lifeguarding service fully insured for public liability and employer's liability risks as appropriate to a minimum cover in each case of £20 million for any one claim.	Not Achieved	Achieved	Exceeded
		x	
	Achieved.		

5. Accumulative Incident Data 2020

Incidents & People Aided																						
	Lives Saved		Rescued		Assisted		Major First Aid		Minor First Aid		Search		Near Miss		Other		Missing/Found		Total Incidents	Total People Aided	Compared to Last Year	
LOCATION																						
PELHAM	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	5	14	14	0	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	24	26	-2	-12
MARINA	4	4	7	7	4	4	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18	-8	-11
PIER	PIER NOT OPERATIONAL 2020																					
SEASON TOTAL	4	4	7	7	5	6	5	5	17	17	0	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	42	44	-25	-39

Preventative Actions						
	Face 2 Face	PA/Tannoy	Signs/Flags	Move Signs and Flags	Other	Total
LOCATION						
PELHAM	4,199	124	3,291	1,569	963	10,146
MARINA	3,233	50	1,543	840	618	6,284
PIER	PIER NOT OPERATIONAL 2020					
SEASON TOTAL	7,432	174	4,834	2,409	1,581	16,430

Beach Visitors				
	Beach Users	In-water	Surf/Craft	Total
LOCATION				
PELHAM	24,843	2,989	339	28,171
MARINA	7,233	1,713	221	9,167
PIER	PIER NOT OPERATIONAL 2020			
SEASON TOTAL	32,076	4,702	560	37,338

Note: Deficit due to Pier not operational. Comparison to last year for operational beaches up by 7701.

6. Comparative Statistics - Pelham and Marina St. Leonards

Pelham

Incidents & People Aided																					
	Lives Saved		Rescued		Assisted		Major First Aid		Minor First Aid		Search		Near Miss		Other		Missing/Found		Total Incidents	Total People Aided	
LOCATION																					
PELHAM	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	5	14	14	0	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	24	26	
2019 SEASON	0	0	2	2	1	1	4	4	10	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	20	26	38	
2018 SEASON	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	4	31	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	46	46	
2017 SEASON	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	20	20	0	0	0	0	5	8	1	1	32	35	

	Preventative Actions					
	Face 2 Face	PA/Tannoy	Signs/Flags	Move Signs and Flags	Other	Total
LOCATION						
PELHAM	4,199	124	3,291	1,569	963	10,146
2019 SEASON	1,915	25	1,490	687	478	4,595
2018 SEASON	4,136					
2017 SEASON	661	2	160		18	841

	Beach Visitors			
	Beach Users	In-water	Surf/Craft	Total
LOCATION				
PELHAM	24,843	2,989	339	28,171
2019 SEASON	18,770	1,797	262	20,829
2018 SEASON				
2017 SEASON	7,355	661	91	8,107

Marina St Leonards

Incidents & People Aided

	Lives Saved		Rescued		Assisted		Major First Aid		Minor First Aid		Search		Near Miss		Other		Missing/Found		Total Incidents	Total People Aided
LOCATION																				
MARINA	4	4	7	7	4	4	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18
2019 SEASON	2	3	4	5	9	10	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	26	29
2018 SEASON	0	0	2	2	5	5	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	15	15
2017 SEASON	0	0	1	1	6	7	0	0	18	18	0	0	1	3	2	9	0	0	28	38

Preventative Actions

	Face 2 Face	PA/Tannoy	Signs/Flags	Move Signs and Flags	Other	Total
LOCATION						
MARINA	3,233	50	1,543	840	618	6,284
2019 SEASON	2,377	15	1,430	769	630	5,221
2018 SEASON	5,079					
2017 SEASON	684	8				692

Beach Visitors

	Beach Users	In-water	Surf/Craft	Total
LOCATION				
MARINA	7,233	1,713	221	9,167
2019 SEASON	7,091	1,435	282	8,808
2018 SEASON				
2017 SEASON	7,355	661	91	8,107

When looking at the Incident data this season, we can in fact see a drop in incidents across Pelham and Marina, this could be due to a number of factors. People this season may have had more regular beach usage and were behaving in a more sensible manner when coming to the coast.

Due to Pier base not being open this season we have not had such a widespread presence along Hastings seafront, we potentially would have seen an increase in incidents if Pier Base was open. We also have to take into consideration that we have been lifeguarding on the beach a less amount of time as we were originally supposed to. Originally, we were supposed to go live with all Hastings beaches on the 23/05/2020.

However there has been a bigger increase in our preventative actions which also would have had an impact on the incidents. There has been an increase in rescues at Marina St Leonards this year, this is due to the nature of marina being one of the most popular beaches for locals and regular swimming groups. This season Marina has also had a number of days where there have been particularly strong currents and dumping waves causing incidents to happen.

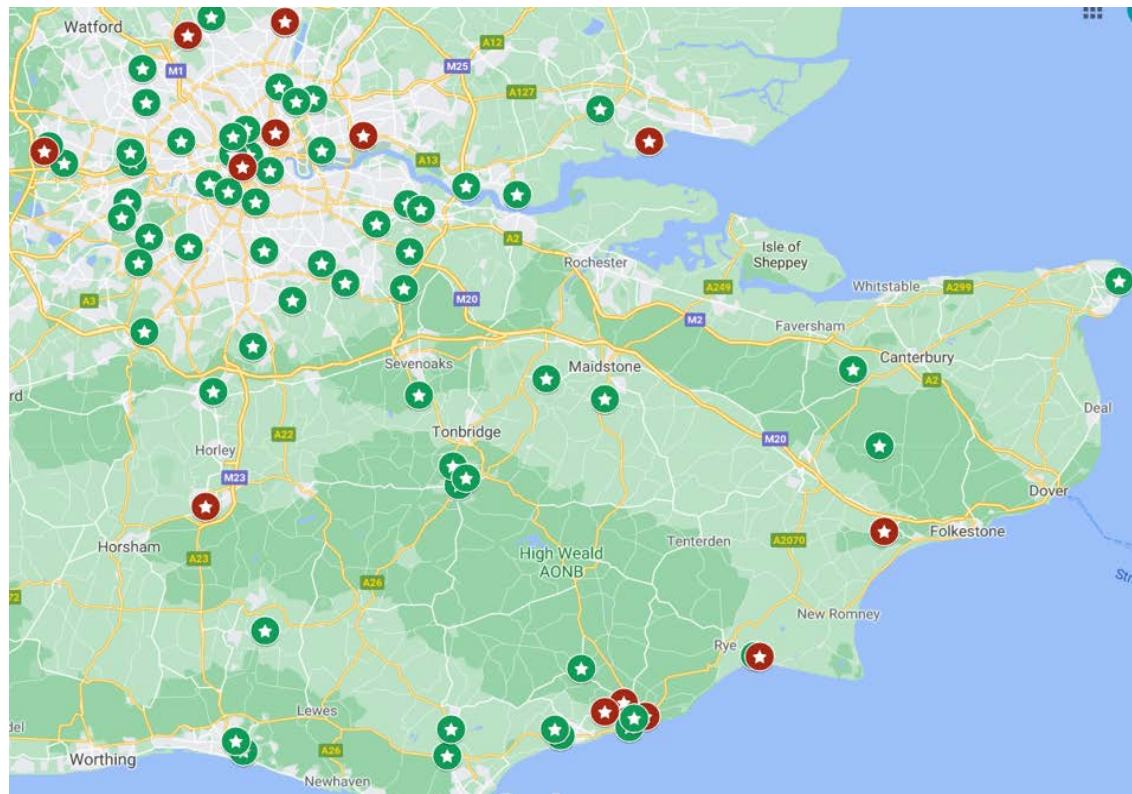
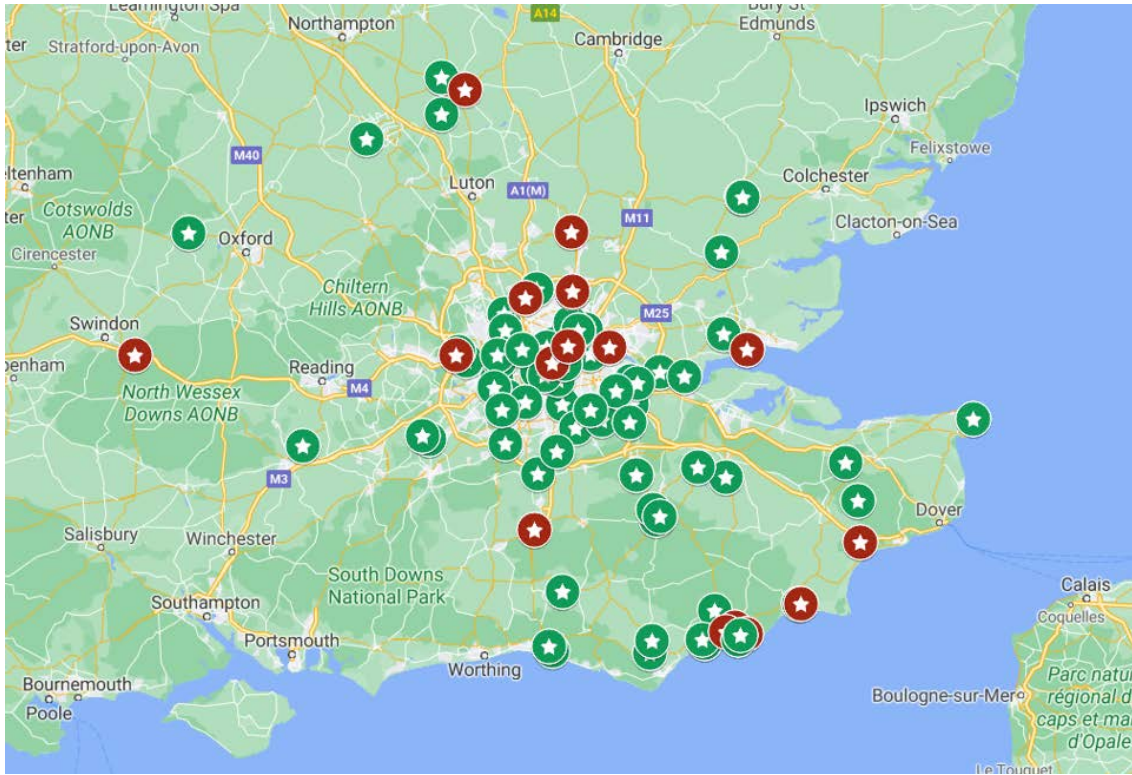
7. Incident Mapping

Over the last four years we have experienced a steady rise in visitor numbers reported on the beaches in East Sussex. The increase in preventative action and incidents on the beach are largely due to the increased beach user numbers and outstanding weather.

Beach users were mapped to gain an insight into where the majority of people were travelling from. The majority of people using Hastings coastline reside in London.

The RNLI are looking at potential toolkits for Lifeguards to overcome any language barriers. There was an apparent increase in inflatable toys causing incidents on the beaches in the UK. This message will be reinforced during school's education talks. The furthest incident was a person from Glasgow.





8. 2021 Recommendations

RNLI Lifeguards make the following recommendations for approval by Hastings BC, in preparation for the 2021 season:

- Ensuring we operate within the government guidelines and RNLI's policies, procedures during COVID - 19.
- Working at the higher tiered level in terms of safety and health at the workplace.
- Open all Lifeguard units and open beaches on contracted dates.
- Upskill lifeguards through training courses.
- Attend Job fairs and School talks when appropriate.
- Work closer with Hastings borough council regarding water quality in Hastings
- Run the service at the highest level - replicate previous seasons.

Continue meet the Lifeguards when appropriate

Now that the lifeguard service is firmly established in the area, we are looking at providing education locally to schools and clubs. The target audience is Key Stage 2 where the individuals are beginning to visit places without the guidance from their parents. Therefore, more likely to unknowingly expose themselves to risk.

It is our intention to set up the meet the lifeguard programme which fits in the national curriculum and does not cost the schools to provide. Lifeguards also already conduct talks on an ad hoc basis to groups who used the beach if conditions allowed. Last year we attended 5 talks in local schools in addition to the ad-hoc ones conducted on the beach.

Each of the talks followed the following topics:

1. Introduction
2. RNLI
3. Lifeguard Introduction
4. Flag System
5. Sun Safety
6. Inflatable Use
7. RIP Currents
8. Tides
9. Coastal Erosion
10. How to get help
11. Hastings and Rother Coastal Codes & Signs
12. Lifeguard Equipment
13. Summary
14. Questions.



Review revised service levels as proposed by RNLI (outlined below and as per end of season meeting / correspondence).

2021 Proposed season dates and manning levels:

Beach Name	Main Start	No LG's	Peak Start	No LG's	Peak Finish	Main Finish
Hastings Pelham	29/05/2021	3	10/07/2021	3	05/09/2021	26/09/2021
Hastings Pier	29/05/2021	2	10/07/2021	2	05/09/2021	26/09/2021
Marina St, Leonards	29/05/2021	3	10/07/2021	3	05/09/2021	26/09/2021

(These are proposed dates they can be changed through discussion with LA)

Hastings Pelham (3LGs), Hasting Pier (2LGs) and Marina St Leonards (3LGs) are all proposed to go live on Sat 29 May 2021, the late May bank holiday weekend. All beaches will initially open full time until Sun 6 June 2021 to cover both the bank holiday and associated school half term break. From Sat 12 June 2021 all beaches will work weekends only up until the start of peak season which would be scheduled to begin on Sat 10 July 2021. From this date they will be operate 7 days a week. Peak season will finish on Sun 5 Sept 2021. All beaches will then revert back to weekend only cover until the end of main season on Sun 26 Sept 2021 (an additional three weekends). All beaches will close for Hastings Borough Council on Sun 26 Sept 2021.

Term	Start date	End date
Early May bank school holiday falls in Term 5 (East Sussex)	Monday 3 May 2021	
May school holiday (East Sussex)	Monday 31 May 2021	Friday 4 June 2021
Summer school holiday(East Sussex)	Saturday 24 July 2021	Tuesday 31 August 2021

Weekend and Bank Holidays

Due to increasing beach populations staffing numbers are constantly reviewed to ensure adequate supervision of the water. Beaches have the potential of some up staffing, at the expense of the RNLI, which is being monitored.

- a. RNLI to continue to provide Meet the Lifeguards beach education campaign in 2019 and take on full administrative responsibility.

- b. Support local authority in personal rescue equipment and signage review as well as beach safety assessments.

9. Report Appendix

Definitions of search and rescue criteria

Rescue - where a lifeguard responds to a person at risk, and physically returns them to shore or transfers them to another craft.

Major First Aid - where a lifeguard treats a patient who is at risk due to sickness or injury and has called in external assistance.

Assistance - where a lifeguard aids a person in the sea who is at little risk, but if left, would be at risk later.

Search - an organised search with other SAR units for a missing person either at sea or on land - includes body recovery.

Near Miss - any occurrence where a person might have been injured by watercraft i.e. powered or otherwise

Life Saved - if the lifeguard had not intervened, life would have been lost.

Preventative Action (PA) - an action conducted by the lifeguard team to prevent persons coming into contact with harm including; PA announcement, moving flags, displaying safety signage, educating beach users.