

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised questions about potential exposure during Pro-ACT training, specifically the training of physical evasion and restraint. Pro-ACT, Inc. offers the following for consideration.

General Information:

The close and caring work that you do may put you in proximity with a number of people. To reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Pro-ACT, Inc. strongly encourages you to follow the guidelines established by your employer, which are best based on the recommendations put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization and your city, state, and national governments and public health authorities.

As questions relate to the potential for crisis behavior, please recognize that Pro-ACT Principles are intended to decrease the likelihood of escalation and crisis behavior which will reduce the potential for physical contact. Especially in this time, strongly encourage the use of Pro-ACT Purpose, Professionalism and Preparation Principles along with alternatives to escalation as essential to reducing your risk and the risk of others in your environments.

Pro-ACT advocates the use of continuous assessment, increased observation, reasonable and assertive communication, and employee self-control, along with evasion and/or distance from the client. The intent of these principles is to intervene early, address the needs of the client, and minimize the potential for crisis and physical contact. All these principles are in line with protocols encouraged during the coronavirus crisis.

In situations in which staff evaluate the use of physical contact as the safest response, the health risk of coronavirus must also be considered in the same way that any other physical, health, or trauma risk is evaluated.

General Training Information:

In accordance with the guidelines referenced above, any organization should carefully assess the risk of transmission along with the need for mass training. If your organization makes the decision to conduct mass training, Pro-ACT, Inc. recommends that:

- Participant numbers should be kept to a minimum to allow at least 6' of distance between participants through all didactic portions of the course.
- To accommodate the increased distance, all small group activity should be converted to large group discussions, facilitated by the Pro-ACT In-service Instructor.
- Limit training to didactic portions only, for example, the Introduction up to Chapter 7, training remaining portions later.
- Agencies currently using Advantage e-Learning should advocate the use of Advantage in at-home environments.
- Agencies not using Advantage e-Learning may consider its implementation for remote learning and training of early content.

Training Information for Evasion and Restraint:

If your organization makes the decision to conduct mass training that includes evasion and restraint, Pro-ACT, Inc. recommends that:

- All participants be encouraged to practice good hygiene by allowing opportunities for handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to and following any physical contact with other participants, lunch and personal breaks.
- Hand sanitizer, gloves and face masks should be available to all participants.
- Participants who do not feel comfortable in a mass training event should be given special consideration.