

**AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)**

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the human heart malfunction causing a disturbance in the heart's electrical rhythm called ventricular fibrillation. This erratic and ineffective electrical heart rhythm causes complete cessation of the heart's normal function of pumping blood resulting in sudden death. The most effective treatment for this condition is the administration of an electrical current to the heart by a defibrillator, delivered within a short time of the onset of ventricular fibrillation. An AED is only applied to victims who are without pulse, signs of circulation and normal breathing. The AED will analyze the heart rhythm and advise the operator if a shockable rhythm is detected. If a shockable rhythm is detected, the AED will charge to the appropriate energy level and advise the operator to deliver a shock.

An approved Automated External Defibrillator (AED) will be available and maintained on the premises of Central School (outside the main gym) and Millington School (outside the gym). An AED is a heart monitor with an electrical device used to counteract fibrillation of the heart muscle in an attempt to restore normal heartbeat that:

1. Has received approval of its pre-market notification filed pursuant to 21 U.S.C.s360(k) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
2. Is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia and is capable of determining, without intervention by an operator, whether defibrillation should be performed; and
3. Upon determining that defibrillation should be performed, automatically charges and requests delivery of an electrical impulse to an individual's heart.

The school nurse under the direction of the prescribing physician will coordinate the following:

- See that the school has a chain of command
- Coordinate training for emergency responders
- Maintain a file of specifications/technical information sheet for approved AED model assigned or donated to the school
- Revise this procedure as required
- Monitor the effectiveness of this system
- Communicate with the prescribing physician on issues related to medical emergency response program including post-event reviews

This policy is in compliance with NJ AED law Chapter 34 as listed below:

**Responsibilities of Person, Entity Acquiring Automated External Defibrillator  
C.2A62A-25**

A person or entity that acquires the AED shall:

- A. Ensure that any person, prior to using that defibrillator, has successfully completed and holds a current certification from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other training programs recognized by the Department of Health and Senior Services in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of a defibrillator,
- B. Ensure that the defibrillator is maintained and tested according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines;
- C. Notify the appropriate first aid, ambulance or rescue squad or other appropriate emergency medical services provider that the person or entity has acquired the defibrillator, the type acquired and its location; and shall maintain the AED Storage Container with an up-to-date use log complete with First Aid Kit including EPI-pen;
- D. Prior to purchasing the AED, provide the prescribing licensed physician with documentation that the person or entity purchasing the defibrillator has a protocol in place to comply with the requirements of subsections A., B. and C. of this section.
- E. After a use, download AED data or ensure the data is downloaded to the appropriate entity, i.e., hospital, EMS, doctor, etc.

**Requirements for User of Defibrillator C.2A:62A-26**

- A. A person shall not use a defibrillator unless they have successfully completed and holds a current certification from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other training program recognized by the Department of Health and Senior Services in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of a defibrillator, provided however, this section shall not be applicable to a person who is licensed as a paramedic, emergency medical technician-D or a first responder-D by the Department of Health and Senior Services.
- B. Any person who uses a defibrillator shall request emergency medical assistance from the appropriate first aid, ambulance or rescue squad as soon as practicable.

**Immunity from Civil Liability for User of Defibrillator; Exceptions C.2A:62A-27**

- A. Any person or entity who, in good faith, acquires or provides a defibrillator, renders emergency care or treatment by the use of a defibrillator or supervises

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- such care or treatment and, who has complied with the requirements of this act, shall be immune from civil liability for any personal injury as a result of such care or treatment, or as a result of any acts or omissions by the person or entity in providing, rendering or supervising the emergency care or treatment.
- B. The immunity provided in subsection A. of this section shall include the prescribing licensed physician and the person or entity who provided the training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of the defibrillator.
- C. This subsection shall not immunize a person for any act of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. It shall not be considered gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct to fail to use a defibrillator in the absence of an otherwise pre-existing duty to do so.

### **Medical Control:**

The medical advisor of the AED program is the prescribing physician of the district. The medical advisor of the AED program has ongoing responsibility for:

- Providing medical direction for use of AEDs
- Writing a prescription for AED's
- Reviewing and approving guidelines for emergency procedures related to use of AED's and CPR
- Evaluation of post-event review forms and digital files downloaded from the AED

### Eligibility of Staff

Employees participating in the program do so at no additional compensation. Participants will comply with the following stipulation:

Employees involved shall maintain current status and successfully complete a Heartsaver AED provider course. If a member of the response team is an EMT, then the EMT requirements need to be maintained for these participants as per the State of New Jersey mandate.

### **Authorized AED Users:**

The AED may be used by:

- Employees including: administrators, nurses, teachers, aides and office staff

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- Any trained responder who has successfully completed an approved CPR/AED training program and has a current successful course completion card

### **AED-Trained Employee Responsibilities**

- Activating internal emergency response system and providing prompt basic life support including AED and first aid according to training and experience.
- Understanding and complying with requirements of this policy
- Following the more detailed procedures and guidelines for the AED program.

### **Volunteer Responder Responsibilities:**

- Anyone can, at their discretion, provide voluntary assistance to victims of medical emergencies. The extent to which these individuals respond shall be appropriate to their training and experience. These responders are encouraged to contribute to emergency response only to the extent they are comfortable. The emergency medical response of these individuals may include CPR, AED or medical first aid.

### **Equipment**

Outside groups using our school buildings have permission to utilize the AED's for medical emergencies provided they follow the guidelines in the Board of Education's Use of Facilities Policy #1330. The equipment referred to is:

- A. Defibrillator: The Medtronic Physio-Control Lifepak 500 AED will be the only AED used.
- B. Pads: Two (2) sets of pads will be kept with each unit.
- C. Batteries: The AED will be equipped with a non-rechargeable lithium battery pack. This battery pack has a shelf life of five (5) years and will function for a minimum of 230 discharges.
- D. Equipment and Maintenance: All equipment, supplies and defibrillators will be checked and restocked as necessary after every AED call by contacting the school nurse. The school nurse will do a daily check. Daily inspections during the summer months will be performed by individuals specifically trained by the school nurse.

AED is not to be used on:

1. Children (under 8 years old or less than 55 lbs./25 kg.)
2. Trauma CPR's (obvious mortal injuries)

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3. Patients who are “Do Not Resuscitate” (DNR) with physician orders for DNR or identifiable DNR bracelet.
4. Patients who are obviously dead (rigor mortis, lividity, etc.)
5. Patients with pulses.

Do not operate an AED in or around:

1. Water
2. Flammable liquid gases
3. Metal flooring (e.g. metal stairs), move victim appropriately

For patients who have implanted devices: Place the AED electrodes at least 1 inch from the device or, if necessary use Anterior/Posterior (front center of chest and middle upper back).

### **AED Response Protocol**

In the event of an emergency, the rescuer will follow the Heartsaver AED Protocol utilizing the American Heart Association (AHA) “Chain of Survival”.

1. Early Access – call 911 or radio police dispatcher.
2. Early CPR – Begin CPR if indicated.
3. Early defibrillation – provide early defibrillation using the AED.
4. Early advanced care – assist Emergency Medical Systems (EMS), as needed.

Post resuscitation care after successful defibrillation:

1. Proper airway management
2. Supplemental oxygen (if available)
3. Monitor person’s pulse and breathing
4. Leave AED on (no shock will be delivered unless patient goes back into the rhythm they had before and has no pulse). If this should occur the AED will analyze the change in rhythm and will request rescuer deliver appropriate shock protocol.
5. Stabilize and ensure transport of the person ASAP to the proper entity.

**First reading: April 14, 2008**

**Second reading: April 28, 2008**

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**Legal References:**

N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1	General Mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:20-1	Employment of Medical inspectors, Optometrists and nurses; salaries; terms; rules
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4	Examination of pupils; health records
N.J.S.A. 2A:6A-27	Immunity from civil liability for user of Defibrillator
N.J.S.C. 6:29-1.1 Et seq.	Health, safety and physical education

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 13:37-62:21 U.S.C. s360(k)

**Possible Cross References:**

1330	Use of School Facilities
3516	School Safety
5141	Health

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual

