

Policy

USE OF AUTOMATED DEFIBRILLATORS

Automated external defibrillators (AED) are medical devices that sense the heart rhythms of cardiac victims and automatically determine whether a lifesaving electric shock is necessary. More than 350,000 Americans die annually from out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest. Many die needlessly because lifesaving defibrillators are not immediately available. The American Heart Association estimates that almost 100,000 deaths could be prevented each year if defibrillators were more widely available to designated responders. The Mount Laurel Township School District Board of Education recognizes that medical emergencies may occur that justify the use of AEDs. To prevent the potential for such a tragedy the district shall acquire and maintain AED equipment in the schools for use by qualified staff members.

The Mount Laurel Township School District shall develop, implement and monitor a Public Access Defibrillation Program. This program will promote readiness and combat the mortality and morbidity associated with sudden cardiac arrest through appropriate placement, accessibility and maintenance of automated external defibrillators.

Only those staff members documented as having completed the required training are authorized to use an AED. A coach, athletic trainer, or in the absence of the coach or athletic trainer another designated staff member, who is appropriately trained and certified in the use of the AED shall be present during athletic events or team practices. The district shall ensure that a State-certified emergency services provider or other certified first responder is on site at the event or practice. An applicable patient would exhibit all of the following signs as per AHA standards on AED use:

- A. Is unconscious;
- B. Is not breathing;
- C. Has no signs of circulation (as confirmed by a pulse check)

Description of Automated External Defibrillator

Automated External Defibrillator is a device, which can:

- A. Be attached to a patient in cardiopulmonary arrest;
- B. Analyze an electrocardiogram for the presence of potentially lethal dysrhythmias, specifically ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia;
- C. Recognize the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia, and is capable of determining, without intervention by an operator, whether defibrillation should be performed;
- D. Deliver an electrical defibrillation to the patient in accordance with the requirements of standard treatment protocols. The discharge of electrical current through the fibrillating myocardium for the purpose of restoring a perfusing cardiac rhythm is called cardiac defibrillation; and
- E. Produce an event summary that documents significant events in the use of the device, specifically events prior to and after an electrical defibrillation.

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (continued)Placement, Accessibility and Maintenance of the AED

The AED shall be:

- A. Available in an unlocked location on school property with an appropriate identifying sign:
 - 1. Located in the vicinity of the nurse's office;
 - 2. Stored in an accessible and visible location;
 - 3. Accessible to designated staff;
- B. Accessible during the school day and any other time when a school-sponsored athletic event or team practice is taking place in which pupils of the district or nonpublic school are participating;
- C. Within reasonable proximity of the school athletic field or gymnasium, as applicable;
- D. Tested and maintained according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines and notification is provided to the appropriate first aid, ambulance, or rescue squad or other appropriate emergency medical services provider regarding the defibrillator, the type acquired, and its location in accordance with section 3 of P.L.1999, c.34 (N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-25).

Procedures

The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall:

- A. Ensure that the defibrillator is maintained and tested according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines;
- B. Notify the appropriate first aid, ambulance or rescue squad or other appropriate emergency medical services provider that the school district has acquired the defibrillator(s), the type acquired, and its location; and
- C. Provide the school physician with documentation that the school district has a protocol in place that complies with certification, maintenance and requirements prior to purchasing and installation of the AED;
- D. Ensure only district employees that have successfully completing and holding 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 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of a defibrillator be allowed to operate the AED. This shall not apply to a person who is licensed as a paramedic, emergency medical technician, and/or a first responder. These individuals trained and certified to perform cardiac defibrillation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A-9.4(a) and N.J.S.A. 26:2k-39, et seq. by the Department of Health and Senior Services.
- E. Register with the Department of Health and Senior Services, documenting possession of an AED that may be used by an EMT-D or FR-D for the purpose of administering pre-hospital cardiac defibrillation. Registration shall be made in a form and manner as prescribed by the department. Registration forms shall bear the original signatures of the district's chief school administrator and/or designee, and the school physician and shall include the following:
 - 1. The name of the school district;
 - 2. The district's address;
 - 3. The chief school administrator or other designated contact person;
 - 4. Name and license number of the school physician;
 - 5. Location of defibrillators;

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (continued)

6. A statement that all local emergency medical service agencies and 911 centers have been notified of the devices' location; and
 7. A statement of compliance with manufacturer's equipment maintenance and testing requirements;
- F. The school nurse, or any other individual who holds a current certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator shall conduct AED maintenance and testing according to the manufacturer's guidelines.
 - G. Documentation of the maintenance and testing shall be maintained at both the school level and by the board of education.
 - H. Each AED unit shall be checked weekly with regard to battery condition, overall readiness for use, and adequate supplies.
 - I. The weekly AED check will be documented on a form prepared by the district and kept with the AED. A copy of all documentation will be retained as a permanent record. The authorized user at each location will be responsible for performing the weekly check. Any district employee or person who, in good faith, acquires or provides a defibrillator, renders emergency care or treatment by the use of a defibrillator, or supervises such care or treatment 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 district employee or person in providing, rendering, or supervising the emergency care or treatment.
 - J. The immunity provided shall include the school physician and the person or entity that provided the training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of the defibrillator.
 - K. Immunity shall not apply to a person for any act of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

Implementation of Procedures for Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and AED Use

The chief school administrator shall oversee the development and implementation of a district emergency action plan that establishes guidelines for use of the AED. The emergency action plan shall include:

- A. A list of no less than five school employees, team coaches, or licensed athletic trainers who hold current certifications 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 in the use of a defibrillator. The list shall be updated, as necessary, at least once in each semester of the school year; and
- B. Detailed procedures on responding to a sudden cardiac event including, but not limited to, the identification of the persons in the school who will be responsible for: responding to the person experiencing the sudden cardiac event, calling 911, starting cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, retrieving and using the defibrillator, and assisting emergency responders in getting to the individual experiencing the sudden cardiac event.

Any employee, student or other individual who inappropriately accesses and/or uses an AED will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school and/or termination of employment. Civil and/or criminal liability may also be imposed on any student, employee or individual who inappropriately accesses and/or uses an AED. All usage will be reported to the board of education.

Immunity

A school district and its employees shall be immune from civil liability in the acquisition and use of defibrillators pursuant to the provisions of section 5 of P.L.1999, c.34 (C.2A:62A-27). A person who acts with gross negligence or willful misconduct in the use of defibrillators does not enjoy immunity.

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (continued)

Adopted: December 17, 2002
 Revised: May 24, 2005; February 26, 2008
 NJSBA Review/Update: August 2013, May 2014
Readopted: August 26, 2014 – First Reading
 September 23, 2014 – Second Reading and Final Adoption

Key Words

Automated External Defibrillator, AED, Cardiac Arrest

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-23 to 27 AED emergency medical services, 1999 statute
N.J.S.A. 18A:16-6, -6.1 Indemnity of officers and employees against civil actions.
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 et seq. Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1 Employment of medical inspectors, optometrists and nurses; salaries; terms; rules
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3 Lectures to teachers
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5 Method of examination; notice to parent or guardian
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-6 In general
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-34 Regulations adopted by Commissioner of Education relative to children's health care coverage
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41a Schools required to have an AED
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41b Emergency action plan (AED)
N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq. Substance Abuse
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1 et seq. Programs to Support Student Development
See particularly:
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1, -1.3, -1.4, -2.1, -2.3, -2.4
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.1 et seq. Operation and Maintenance of School Facilities
See particularly:
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.3
N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.1 et seq. Reportable Communicable Diseases

Possible

Cross References: *1410 Local units
 *3510 Operation and maintenance of plant
 *3516 Safety
 *4112.4/4212.4 Employee health
 *4131/4131.1 Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
 *5125 Pupil records
 *5131 Conduct/discipline
 *5141.1 Accidents
 *5141.2 Illness
 *5141.21 Administering medication
 *5142 Pupil safety
 *6142.4 Physical education and health

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