

USE OF AUTOMATED DEFIBRILLATORS

The Mount Laurel Township School District recognizes that Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) are medical devices that sense the heart rhythms of cardiac victims and automatically determine whether a lifesaving electric shock is necessary. The Mount Laurel Township School District recognizes that more than 350,000 Americans die annually from out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest. Many die needlessly because life saving 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 mission of the Mount Laurel Township School District is to develop, implement and monitor a Public Access Defibrillation Program. Through use of Automated External Defibrillators, this program will promote readiness and combat the mortality and morbidity associated with sudden cardiac arrest.

“Automated External Defibrillator” is a device, which can:

- Be attached to a patient in cardiopulmonary arrest;
- Analyze an electrocardiogram for the presence of potentially lethal dysrhythmias, specifically ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia;
- 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;
- Deliver an electrical defibrillation to the patient in accordance with the requirements of standard treatment protocols; and
- Produce an event summary that documents significant events in the use of the device, specifically events prior to and after an electrical defibrillation.

“Cardiac Defibrillation” means the discharge of electrical current through the fibrillating myocardium for the purpose of restoring a perfusing cardiac rhythm.

The Mount Laurel Township School District when acquiring AED's shall:

- Ensure that any employee, prior to using that defibrillator, has 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 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of a defibrillator;
- Ensure that the defibrillator is maintained and tested according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines;
- 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

USE OF AUTOMATED DEFIBRILATORS (Continued)

- Prior to purchasing the AED, provide the school physician with documentation that the school district has a protocol in place that complies with such certification, maintenance and requirements.

In accordance with P.L. Chapter 34 and under the direction of the school physician, a Mount Laurel Township School District employee may use the AED under the following circumstances:

- A Mount Laurel Township School District employee shall use the defibrillator after 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; however, 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 NJAC 8:40A-9.4(a) and NJSA 26:2k-39, et esq. by the Department of Health and Senior Services.
- The Mount Laurel Township School District shall 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 prehospital 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:
 - a. The name of the school district
 - b. The district's address
 - c. The Superintendent or other designated contact person
 - d. Name and license number of the school physician
 - e. Location of defibrillators
 - f. A statement that all local emergency medical service agencies and 911 centers have been notified of the devices' location, and
 - g. A statement of compliance with manufacturer's equipment maintenance and testing requirements.

Location, Maintenance and Testing of AED's

- AED should be located in the vicinity of the nurse's office.
- AED must be stored in an accessible and visible location.
- AED must be accessible to designated staff.
- 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.
- Documentation of the maintenance and testing shall be maintained at both the school level and by the Board of Education.
- Each AED unit shall be checked weekly with regard to battery condition, overall readiness for use, and adequate supplies.
- 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.

USE OF AUTOMATED DEFIBRILATORS (Continued)

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.

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.

Immunity shall not apply to a person for any act of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

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