

AP 5904: Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Background:

Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) may help people who have sudden cardiac arrest. To ensure that staff and students, as well as the public, have access to life- saving measures in the event of a cardiac arrest, an AED may be installed at a district site based on need.

Definitions:

Automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device used to administer an electric shock to the heart and restore the heart's normal rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the human heart malfunction, causing a disturbance called **ventricular fibrillation (VF)** in the heart's electrical rhythm leading to cessation of the heart's normal function of pumping blood.

Procedures:

1. AEDs used in the workplace are considered first aid equipment under Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 296/97.
2. Designated first aid attendants must review the AED manufacturer's requirements for use, maintenance and inspections (refer to the manufacturer's user manual).
3. AEDs in schools are intended primarily for use by designated first aid attendants and secondarily for use by staff or members of the general public. Under the Good Samaritan Act, persons are not liable for rendering emergency care including the use of an AED. 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.
4. AED Inspections
 - 4.1. Inspection will be completed during worksite safety inspections by a designated first aid attendant or a Safety Committee member or by the principal.
5. Maintenance and Replacement
 - 5.1. Maintenance and replacement costs will be provided by the Occupational Health and Safety department.
6. The Manager of Safe Schools & OHS will ensure the following:
 - 6.1. AED meets Health Canada's Medical Device Regulations.
 - 6.2. AED is approved by Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

6.3. Notification to the Interior Health Authority of type and location of AED.

6.4. Establishment of procedures for the monitoring and maintenance of the AED.