

AED Frequently Asked Questions

What is an AED and why is it important?

- An AED stands for Automated External Defibrillator
- It is an easy-to-use medical device that analyzes a heart's rhythm and if necessary, delivers an electrical shock/defibrillation to help the heart re-establish an effective electrical rhythm.
- The leading cause of sudden death in sports in young athletes is cardiac arrest
- There may not be any symptoms that a person reports prior to a cardiac arrest and no physical examination findings.
- Studies have determined that the greatest success for survival of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is short time to defibrillation by using an AED.

What does it mean to have an AED within a 1 to 3 minute walk of any activity or participant? Why does it need to be a 1 to 3 minute timeframe?

- If an AED is not directly onsite at an event, an AED should be available so that a person who goes to retrieve it can walk to its location, retrieve it and back to the site it is needed in 1 to 3 minutes time.
- When an AED is applied and deployed within 3 minutes, recent studies demonstrate survival rates of 85-93%
- Multiple medical societies support "Time to Defibrillation" of less than 3 minutes to maximize survival rates.
- Survival rates drop by 7-10% for every minute that defibrillation is delayed in a cardiac arrest situation.

What if I have more than one activity that is ongoing simultaneously at my school, but at different venues?

More than one AED may be required to provide a safe environment depending upon your school's location of athletics and activities going on.

Which person could be responsible for maintenance of your AED(s)?

Responsible Parties for Maintenance of an AED would include:

- Athletic Trainer
- Team Physician
- School Nurse
- School Administrator or trained staff
- Physical Education Instructor
- EMS

What is the average cost of an AED and any replacement parts for the AED?

- AED Cost on average: \$1400 – 2500
- Replacement Battery Costs: \$40-430
 - o every 2-5 years
- Replacement Pad Costs: \$50-230

What additional parts to AED Training are recommended?

- Maintain nationally accredited annual training for all personnel involved in responsibilities or use of the AED and have a system to track this annually
- Recommend mock practice sessions for use of an AED annually
- Remember to coordinate your AED education with your Emergency Action Plan that involves activating the Emergency Response System right away, so that qualified healthcare professionals arrive on scene to assist with patient care

