

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

KFD Use and Location of Automated External Defibrillators

Updated: March 7, 2022

Category: Recommended

Background

There are more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA) annually in the U.S., nearly 90% of them fatal, according to data reported in the American Heart Association's Heart & Stroke Statistics 2020 Update. Cardiac arrest is a condition in which abnormal heart rhythms called *arrhythmias* cause the heart's electrical impulses to suddenly become chaotic. When this happens, the heart stops abruptly, and the victim collapses and quickly loses consciousness. Death usually follows unless a normal heart rhythm is restored within a few minutes.

Defibrillation, which means delivering an electric shock to the heart, is the only known treatment to restore normal rhythm. While Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) still remains an excellent technique to maintain a patient who has gone into cardiac arrest, without the use of a device to restore normal heart rhythm, the survival chances of the patient are quite small.

The district shall maintain an AED at each school building in a readily accessible location. A designated representative will inspect the units monthly as advised by the manufacturer.

As part of its Emergency Response Plan, each school shall establish an AED Team. Participation on the team is voluntary. All team members will receive initial training and certification in Adult CPR and AED and required retraining and certification will be offered when required.

In the case of any medical emergency such as reports of difficulty breathing, unconsciousness, and heart attack, the first response by staff shall be to call 911 for assistance. Until emergency assistance arrives the Team is responsible for providing first responder services.

When delivering patient care, staff will use appropriate personal protection equipment, which includes gloves and a pocket mask. At all times the dignity of the patient should be considered. The immediacy of the situation often prompts the removal of clothing and possibly other items to render proper care.

153-A:31 Liability Limited. – Any person who, in good faith and without compensation, renders emergency care by the use of an automated external defibrillator shall not be liable for civil damages for any acts or omissions unless the acts or omissions were grossly negligent or willful and wanton. Any person, association, corporation, or other organization that acquires and maintains an automated external defibrillator for emergency care shall not be liable for civil damages other than for gross negligence or willful and wanton acts or omissions. This section shall not limit civil liability protection provided by any other law.

Source. 2000, 302:4, eff. June 21, 2000. 2002, 156:5, eff. July 14, 2002.

Legal References

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Second Reading: waived

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