

File JLCDD

Arlington Public Schools

School Based Public Access Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Program

The Arlington Public Schools has put forth this policy to provide standardized procedures for persons involved in the administering of the public access defibrillation program in order to protect the health and safety of students and staff. A public access defibrillation program provides an opportunity for trained responders at Arlington Public Schools to deliver early defibrillation to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The AED program is intended to make AEDs available for use only by individuals who have current evidence of successful completion of a course in CPR and the use of an AED that meets or exceeds the standards established by the American Heart Association or the National Red Cross.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the human heart malfunction causing a disturbance in the heart's electrical rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). This erratic and ineffective electrical heart rhythm causes complete cessation of the heart's normal function of pumping blood resulting in sudden death. The most effective treatment for this condition is the administration of an electrical current to the heart by a defibrillator, delivered within a short time of the onset of VF.

An AED is used to treat victims who experience SCA. It is only to be used when victims have no response, no breathing, and no pulse. The AED will analyze the heart rhythm and advise the operator if a shockable rhythm is detected. If a shockable rhythm is detected, the

AED will charge to the appropriate energy level and advise the operator to deliver the shock.

All AED's will meet the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws c. 112, Section 12V ½ relating to public access defibrillation programs.

The Arlington Public Schools will have a team of staff members specifically trained in the use and maintenance of the device. Basic CPR and AED training will be offered to all interested staff members. The school nurse, the building principal and the Nursing Leader will coordinate this training.

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Arlington Public Schools Physician, and Director of Nursing, shall promulgate guidelines which shall be made publicly available.

Cross References: MGL CH. 112, Section 12V ½, MGL CH. 71, Section 55A(dealing with administering basic first aid)

Approved by School Committee, January 26, 2012