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AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDs)

1) PURPOSE

Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, inclusive, welcoming and accepting learning and working environment.

The procedure includes information on the deployment, training, and maintenance of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

2) GENERAL

An AED is a portable electronic device that can audibly prompt and deliver an electric shock that will disrupt or stop the heart's dysrhythmic electrical activity. The shock can cause the heart to revert to a more effective rhythm during some life-threatening situations. However, the AED is not a stand-alone treatment. It is only one step in a chain of medical care involving cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation, advanced life support with drugs and airway control, and cardiac intensive care in a hospital.

3) LEGISLATION

- a) In 2006, the Ontario government introduced the *Chase McEachern Act* (Heart Defibrillator Civil Liability Act, 2006). This Act protects people from liability if they use a defibrillator to assist someone at an emergency, as long as the defibrillators were made available in good faith.
- b) Protection from civil liability, user of defibrillator Section 2. (1) reads:
 - i) Despite the rules of common law, a person described in subsection (2) who, in good faith, voluntarily and without reasonable expectation of compensation or reward uses a defibrillator on a person experiencing an emergency is not liable for damages that result from the person's negligence in acting or failing to act while using the defibrillator, unless it is established that the damages were caused by the gross negligence of the person. 2007, c. 10, Schedule. N, s. 2 (1).

4) DEPLOYMENT OF AED

- a) The standard deployment will be one device for each school. It is recognized that additional devices may be added to some locations due to the geography of the building.
- b) AED devices will be deployed in a prominent location in the building. AED devices will be deployed in view of an existing video camera. Effort will be made to standardize the location of defibrillators.

5) TRAINING

- a) Each school is required to have an appropriate number of staff members trained in First Aid/CPR. This training is provided by the Board, through a certified provider. Participants in this training become certified in CPR/AED.
- b) The First Aid/CPR certification training shall include a module on the use of AEDs.
- c) A list of First Aid/CPR trained employees is posted at the First Aid station.
- d) Principals, along with First Aid trained employees, will work together to ensure that school based procedures are in place to manage emergencies requiring the use of AEDs. When possible, it is ideal that the First Aid trained employees be the first responders to a medical emergency.

6) MAINTENANCE OF AED DEVICES

- a) To ensure that all AEDs are maintained in proper working order, regular inspections must occur.
- b) Each AED device will be inspected on a daily basis by custodial staff. If it is determined that the device, or its casing, has been tampered with, a report will be made to the principal.
- c) Custodial employees are required to inspect AED devices monthly using Form 154-4 – Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Monthly Inspection Log.
- d) Annually, custodial employees are required to take the battery pack out and put it back in to ensure the AED re-boots.
- e) If during a visual inspection, the AED is noted to have a red “X” in the viewing window, administration should contact the Health and Safety Officer.

7) USE OF AEDs

- a) Should the AED be used in an emergency situation, administration should contact the Health and Safety Officer immediately.

8) STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCESS TO AEDs (MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION)

- a) It is recognized that some students may require ongoing access to an AED, as prescribed by a medical doctor. For the purpose of section #8 of this procedure, a confirmation prescription/diagnosis by a licenced physician and completion of forms under Procedure 320: Provision of Health and/or Medical Support for Students is required.
- b) In situations where the standard AED located in the school will not meet the needs outlined in the medical prescription, it is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to provide an additional AED.
- c) Elementary school students would be encouraged to have their AED stored in a central location (i.e. office) similar to the process used for epi-pens.
- d) Secondary school students would be encouraged to keep their AED on their person at all times as they transition from class to class.

- e) When a student has a medical prescription for an AED, refer to Procedure 320: Provision of Health and/or medical Support for Students and follow the established process for any health/medical conditions.

Legal references

- *Education Act*
- *Chase McEachern Act (Heart Defibrillator Civil Liability), 2006*

District references

- Administrative Procedure 149: Safety and Well-Being of Students and Staff
- Administrative Procedure 153: Emergency Response
- Administrative Procedure 162: Treatment of Injured or Ill Students and Staff Members
- Administrative Procedure 320: Provision of Health and/or Medical Support for Students
- Administrative Procedure 420: Occupational Health and Safety
- Form 154-1 – AED Emergency Treatment Form
- Form 154-2 – Direction: Use of an automated Electronic Defibrillator
- Form 154-3 – AED Monthly Inspection
- Form 154-4 – Monthly Inspection Log