



# Policy: Emergency Access To Defibrillators

It is the policy of the Superior North Catholic District School Board that every reasonable precaution to ensure the health and well-being of all students, staff and visitors, will be taken to prevent serious medical emergencies.

The use of a defibrillator as an emergency device to aid a person during a life threatening medical episode, is one method of immediate medical intervention.

## Regulations

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED), also referred to as a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD), is a portable electronic device that can audibly prompt and deliver an electron 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 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation, advanced life support with drugs and airway control, and cardiac intensive care in a hospital.

In 2006, the Ontario Government introduced the Chase McEachern Act (Heart Defibrillator Civil Liability Act). 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. Protection from civil liability, use of defibrillator Section 2 (1) reads: "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)]

## Approval and Review Dates

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Reviewed by: Policy Review Committee, Administrative Council