

# UNEXPECTED HEALTH EMERGENCIES

### Background

Boards of Education in British Columbia are required to establish, maintain and make publicly available procedures for responding to health emergencies in schools in the district. Consistent with the Board's purpose "to create safe, equitable learning environments that lift each learner to thrive, grow and share their unique gifts" this procedure will provide that a timely and effective response to unexpected health emergencies will help to ensure a safe school environment.

### Purpose

Comox Valley Schools is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students, staff and visitors. Therefore, in alignment with Ministry of Education and Childcare direction the district, through these procedures, will ensure that life-saving first aid tools, including Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and naloxone kits are readily accessible and maintained in all District operated facilities.

### Definitions

**Automated External Defibrillators (AED)** – a portable device used to administer an electric shock to the heart and restore the heart's normal rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest.

**Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)** – a condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the human heart malfunction causing a disturbance called ventricular fibrillation (VF) in the heart's electrical rhythm. This erratic and ineffective electrical heart rhythm causes complete cessation of the heart's normal function of pumping blood, resulting in SCA.

**Naloxone Kit** – a kit with the supplies to administer naloxone (a medication that can quickly reverse the effects of an overdose from opioids) to someone who appears to be experiencing an opioid overdose.

**Tools** – life-saving first aid tools such as Automated External Defibrillators and naloxone kits.

### Procedures

1. The District authorizes the placement and ready accessibility of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and naloxone kits at all District operated facilities.

### Accessibility

2. AEDs and naloxone kits will be:
  - 2.1 clearly marked with standardized signage to ensure easy identification and use.
  - 2.2 Provided with barrier-free access to accommodate diverse user needs.
  - 2.3 Presented in a non-stigmatizing manner to encourage comfortable and equitable use.

## **Training and Maintenance**

3. In accordance with AP 160:
  - 3.1 each work site is required to have designated employees holding valid first aid certification that meets at least the minimum requirements of the *Workers Compensation Act*. The training is undertaken by the staff member and approved by the District Health and Safety Manager through recommended training courses. First aid training certification will include a module on the use of AEDs and administering naloxone.
  - 3.2 All district site personnel should be made aware of the First Aid designates at their site.
4. The District, when installing an AED must ensure the following:
  - 4.1 AED meets Health Canada's Medical Device Regulations.
  - 4.2 AED is approved by Canadian Standards Association (CSA).
  - 4.3 Notification to the Vancouver Island Health Authority of type and location of AED.
5. Naloxone kit and AED inspection and maintenance shall be the responsibility of the site-based Occupational Health and Safety committee or health and safety representative.
6. Naloxone kits and AEDs will be inspected, maintained, and replaced as per the manufacturer's specifications to ensure functionality and to monitor expiry dates.

Reference: Sections 20, 22, 65, 85, 88(1) School Act

Adopted: June 25, 2019  
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