

The Hallen School

Cardiac Emergency Response Protocol

Purpose

The Hallen School is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors. This Cardiac Emergency Response Protocol establishes procedures for responding to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) or similar life-threatening cardiac emergencies in accordance with New York State Education Law, including Desha's Law and the Dominic Murray Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.

Scope

This protocol applies to all school buildings and grounds; school-sponsored activities and events; athletic practices, physical education activities, and school-sponsored athletic events; and off-site school-sponsored activities, when applicable.

Definition

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the abrupt and unexpected loss of heart function. Immediate treatment includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Warning Signs and Symptoms

Sudden collapse or loss of consciousness; racing heart or irregular heartbeat; chest pain or discomfort; dizziness or extreme fatigue; excessive shortness of breath; abnormal or absent breathing; seizure-like activity or fainting, especially during or after physical activity.

Emergency Response Procedures

Ensure scene safety. Activate the school's emergency response procedures immediately. Notify school administration and the school nurse without delay. Emergency medical services (EMS) will be activated by administration or the school nurse in accordance with school procedures. Administration and/or the school nurse will direct the retrieval and use of an AED by trained personnel as appropriate. CPR and AED use shall be provided by trained staff. EMS assumes care upon arrival. Parents/guardians are notified. Incidents are documented and reviewed.

Risk-Based Implementation

The Hallen School applies a risk-based and situational approach to cardiac emergency preparedness. While AEDs and CPR/AED-trained personnel are available during school operations and higher-risk activities, some off-site or low-risk school-sponsored activities may not have immediate access to AED equipment, trained personnel, or on-site administrators or nursing staff.

Staff should prioritize student supervision and safety and should not leave a student unattended to seek assistance. Established emergency procedures should be followed, and administration or the school nurse should be notified when feasible. While off-site, if a staff member is alone with a student and reasonably believes a life-threatening medical emergency is occurring, the staff member may contact emergency medical services (911) and notify administration as soon as reasonably possible afterward.

AED Access and Staff Training

AEDs are clearly labeled, accessible, and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines. At least one CPR/AED-trained staff member is available during school operations. Athletic staff maintain certification as required.

Athletics-Specific Provisions

Students displaying signs or symptoms of SCA are immediately removed from physical or athletic

activity and may return only with written and signed clearance from a licensed physician, maintained in the student's health record.

Review

This protocol is reviewed periodically by school administration in consultation with the school nurse to ensure continued alignment with NYSED guidance and best practices.

This protocol is informed by New York State Education Department guidance, including Desha's Law and the Dominic Murray Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act, and is adapted to reflect The Hallen School's operations and resources.