



CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (CERP)

North Side Community School

Aligned with American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines

I. Policy Statement & Purpose

The purpose of this Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) is to establish a clear, coordinated, and rapid response mechanism for individuals experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) or a medical emergency on the campus of North Side Community School.

The primary target response time from collapse to the initial shock delivery from an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is **under 3 minutes**.

II. Cardiac Emergency Response Team (CERT) Roles

A designated team of school staff members is trained in AHA High-Quality CPR and AED operation. During an emergency, team members assume the following roles:

- **Team Leader / School Nurse:** Evaluates the victim, directs resuscitation efforts, and oversees CPR/AED application.
- **911 Caller:** Calls 911 immediately and stays on the line with the dispatcher to provide real-time updates.
- **AED Retriever:** Fetches the nearest AED and Emergency Medical Kit immediately.
- **CPR Responders:** Initiate and rotate high-quality CPR (30 compressions to 2 breaths, or hands-only CPR).
- **EMS Escort:** Directs incoming First Responders/EMS from the main entrance to the exact location on campus.
- **Crowd & Student Control:** Clears the area of students and bystanders to secure privacy and keep pathways clear.



Elementary Campus
3033 N. Euclid Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63115
(314) 385-9502

Middle School Campus
620 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103
(314) 499-2009 x3100

Early Childhood Center
1916 N. Euclid Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63113
(314) 385-9502 x2100

III. Emergency Action Steps (Chain of Survival)

Step 1: Recognition & Scene Safety

- Verify that the scene is safe for responders and the victim.
- Check for responsiveness by tapping the victim's shoulders and shouting loudly: "Are you okay?"
- Check for normal breathing and a pulse for no more than **10 seconds**.
Note: Gasping or agonal breathing is NOT normal breathing; treat it immediately as cardiac arrest.

Step 2: Activate Emergency Response

- **Call 911 immediately** (or direct a specific person to call).
- Announce over the school PA system or radio:
"Medical Emergency, Cardiac Response needed in [Location]."
- Immediately notify the school nurse and administration.

Step 3: Retrieve AED & Direct EMS

- Direct a designated team member to retrieve the nearest AED immediately.
- Send an EMS Escort to the main entrance/gates to guide emergency personnel directly to the scene.

Step 4: Begin CPR Immediately

- Place the victim on a hard, flat surface.
- **Adult / Child High-Quality CPR Protocol:**
 - **Compression Rate:** 100 to 120 compressions per minute (to the beat of "Stayin' Alive").
 - **Compression Depth:** At least 2 inches for adults and children.
 - **Chest Recoil:** Allow full chest recoil after each compression.
 - **Minimize Interruptions:** Keep compressions continuous; switch CPR responders every 2 minutes to prevent fatigue.



Step 5: Apply & Use the AED

- As soon as the AED arrives, turn it **ON** and follow the voice prompts.
- Apply pads to the victim's bare chest as illustrated on the pad packaging.
- Ensure no one is touching the victim while the AED analyzes the heart rhythm.
- **If a shock is advised:** Announce loudly, "**CLEAR!**", conduct a visual check to ensure no contact, and push the shock button.
- Immediately resume chest compressions after shock delivery, or immediately if no shock is advised.
- Continue 2-minute CPR cycles until EMS personnel arrive and take over, or until the victim shows obvious signs of life.

IV. AED Locations & Maintenance

Campus AED Locations

- **Main Office / Reception Area:** Wall cabinet adjacent to the main entrance.
- **Gymnasium / Athletics Wing:** Wall cabinet next to the physical education office.
- **Cafeteria / Central Hallway:** Central wall cabinet near the main hallway intersection.

Equipment Inspection Checklist

The School Nurse or designated Safety Coordinator conducts monthly inspections to verify:

- The AED status indicator light displays a green/ready status.
- Both adult and pediatric pads are sealed and unexpired.
- The emergency kit contains spare pads, pediatric key/pads, safety shears, a razor, nitrile gloves, and a CPR barrier mask.
- The battery charge is sufficient.

V. Staff Training & Drills

- **Certification:** Key CERT members, physical education staff, and athletic personnel must maintain active **AHA Heartsaver® CPR/AED** certification. General awareness training is provided annually to all school staff.



- **Practice Drills:** The school will conduct a minimum of **two unannounced Cardiac Emergency Response drills per school year** to test response times, equipment readiness, and team communication.

VI. Post-Event Protocol

1. **EMS Handoff:** Provide arrival time, CPR start time, estimated number of shocks delivered, and victim details to arriving EMS personnel.
2. **Incident Reporting:** Complete an internal Medical Incident Report form within 24 hours.
3. **Equipment Restock:** Re-order used AED pads, replace disposable equipment, and return the AED unit to full operational status.
4. **Debriefing & Support:** Hold a CERT debriefing meeting to review the response. Provide mental health and counseling resources for staff and students impacted by the event.
5. **Annual Plan Review:** Review and update the CERP annually prior to the start of each academic year.

