

Youth Sports AED Placement Guide

Indoor at Sports Facility or Gym
(mounted on a wall)



AED placement is crucial to the chain of survival in a cardiac emergency. Consider reaching out to your local EMS, Fire Department and/or Project ADAM affiliate if you'd like help.

The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends the AED should be **retrieved and placed on the victim within three minutes** of a suspected cardiac arrest. Therefore, it is extremely important the AED is placed in a central location for quick and easy access in an emergency.

All should be circled "YES" to effectively place the AED.

IS THE AED ACCESSIBLE DURING ALL HOURS THE BUILDING IS OPEN?	YES	NO
DO ALL FACILITY USERS KNOW WHERE THE AED(S) ARE LOCATED? <i>ie: coaches, staff, parents, athletes, volunteers</i>	YES	NO
IS THE AED IN A HIGHLY VISIBLE LOCATION?	YES	NO
IS THERE CLEAR SIGNAGE IDENTIFYING THE AED LOCATION? <i>Consider signage throughout building that directs to AED location.</i>	YES	NO
IS THE AED RETRIEVABLE ANYWHERE ONSITE WITHIN THREE MINUTES (BRISK WALKING)? <i>If you are beginning with one AED, it is best to place it where the most traffic occurs. (for example: near restrooms, outside concession stand, central fields)</i> <i>From there, additional AEDs may be placed as needed in other areas of the building.</i>	YES	NO
THERE ARE NO BARRIERS PREVENTING ACCESS TO THE AED. <i>ie: doors or gates, physical items-tables, trash cans. The AED should never be locked away.</i>	YES	NO
IS THE AED PLACED AT AN UNOBSTRUCTED HEIGHT NO MORE THAN 48" FROM THE FLOOR? <i>In compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.</i>	YES	NO
THE AED CABINET PROTRUDES NO MORE THAN 4" INTO THE CORRIDOR, PASSAGEWAY OR AISLE. <i>In compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.</i>	YES	NO
IS THE ALARM IN YOUR AED CABINET ACTIVATED? <i>The cabinet alarm lets others know the cabinet has been opened and the AED has been retrieved.</i>	YES	NO

AED Best Practices and Considerations:

- An AED should be placed in a central location where it can be retrieved and applied to a victim experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest within 3 minutes from collapse.
- An AED should be accessible to everybody and never in a locked room, cabinet or drawer.
- At the bare minimum, all groups need to know the location of an AED.
- There should be signage near the AED as well as throughout the area to direct people to its location.
- If the AED is inside the concession stand or in a room, it must always be accessible. Consider keys, badge access, key fobs or door passcodes to ensure the ability to enter the building or room at all times.
- When placing an AED outside, an “all weather” cabinet may be considered. Check with your vendor or AED manufacturer as extreme temperatures can affect the AED functionality.
- If the AED needs to be removed during certain weather (ie: extreme cold or heat) ensure that the box is covered and a sign is placed stating the AED is in a different location at this time.
- For seasonal sports, consider partnering with another season’s sports team to share the AED.
- A common misconception is that public AEDs are subject to vandalism or theft. Surveys have shown that this is rare, <2%. The benefit of having a public AED significantly outweighs the rare chance of this misconception.
- Alarmed cabinets can deter people from taking the AED in a non-emergency. While the alarm does not call first responders, people often believe it does and will close the cabinet if it’s not needed. Make sure your cabinet has an active battery.
- Education is important. To prevent theft, consider placing a sign on or near the cabinet briefly explaining that this is a lifesaving device and its accessibility is crucial during a cardiac emergency, and if the cabinet is found empty, to report it to the local police or your program.
- There are special locked AED cabinets that are connected to local EMS that require the retriever to call 911 to access a code to unlock the AED. Talk to your AED vendor to consider if these cabinets are needed for your location and if your EMS agency can support this request.