University of Cincinnati Policy for Automated External Defibrillators
Effective January 2017

Purpose

In order to help ensure the safety and health of students, faculty, staff and visitors on our campuses, the University of Cincinnati (UC) has a program for Automated External Defibrillators (AED) as part of its overall emergency planning. The goal of this program is to have an AED applied to a victim of a cardiac arrest within five minutes of the system being activated. The AED program is one component of the overall University plan for responding to medical emergencies.

Scope

This program is managed through the Office of Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety. All purchases and uses of AEDs at UC (outside of direct patient care departments) are governed by this policy.

Responsibility

The primary responsibility for providing AED services to the UC community is assigned to the Department of Public Safety. To achieve rapid response, Public Safety has trained all of the University’s police officers, security officers and fire safety personnel in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED usage. All Public Safety marked emergency response vehicles are equipped with an AED. Public Safety’s Emergency Management is tasked with the oversight of AEDs deployed by colleges and other units of the University.

Reporting Cardiac Emergencies

Members of the campus community should report potential cardiac emergencies by calling 911 on any campus phone, use a campus help phone (blue light phone), or dial 556-1111 on a cellular phone. This will place them in contact with the UC 911 Communications Center, who will dispatch the closest personnel with an AED, along with the appropriate Emergency Medical Services, to the scene of the emergency.

All members of the campus community are strongly encouraged to learn CPR, so that they are able to provide immediate aid to a cardiac arrest victim. If a second person is available at the scene, they should respond to the main entrance of the building to help guide emergency responders to the victim.

Requirements for Participation

Colleges and departments are also encouraged to participate in the University’s AED program. To do so, they should contact UC Emergency Management at 556-4900, or by emailing
In order to comply with Ohio Revised Code 3701.85, there are several requirements which must be met for units who wish to join the AED program.

1. The AED(s) must be ordered through Public Safety
2. The college or unit shall appoint a program manager for their AED program.
   - The manager will be responsible to encourage all expected users to successfully complete a course in AED and CPR that is offered or approved by a nationally recognized organization and includes instruction on psychomotor skills and national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular guidelines that are current;
   - Maintain and test the defibrillator according to the manufacture’s guidelines.
3. Maintenance, testing and inspection records must be submitted annually to Public Safety.
4. Maintaining the AEDs, including replacing batteries, pads and other consumable parts as required.
5. Report all uses of an AED to Public Safety Emergency Management immediately following use.

Participants and locations of AED’s on campus

- Athletics-15 throughout the department
- Blue Ash-8 throughout the campuses
- Campus Recreation Center-5 in the gym
- College of Conservatory Music-2
- College of Medicine:
  - Medical Science Building/CARE-10 elevator lobbies
  - Kettering-1
  - Reading Campus-2
  - Stetson-2
  - Vontz-1
- Clermont College-6 throughout the campus
- Clermont College-East-1 on 1st floor
- Logan Hall-1, main floor near mailboxes
- Public Safety-20, marked vehicles, 2nd floor hallway and 3rd floor Emergency Operations Center
- University Health Services-2

Standard University AED

The University has chosen the Philips FRx AED for campus use.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why doesn’t UC have AEDs in every building?
The University of Cincinnati has elected not to place units in all buildings as a general approach. With over 100 buildings, and the need to have multiple units in each building, this would be a very expensive and time consuming program to operate. AEDs must be tested and maintained on a regular basis to ensure operability when needed. There was also a concern with the tracking and accountability of hundreds of units. The departments who currently have AEDs were willing to purchase the units and maintain the devices. The current deployments strategy allows us to deliver an AED with a trained operator to the scene within the desired time frame.

- Do AEDs always save someone’s life?

There are many causes of cardiac arrest, and unfortunately AEDs are only effective in some situations. They can be lifesaving in those specific conditions, but AED use is only one step in the chain of cardiac resuscitation. Immediately calling for Emergency Medical Services, so that other advanced lifesaving care can be provided promptly is crucial. In some cases where the AED is not effective, CPR can save a person’s life, so knowledge of how to properly perform CPR is extremely important.

- Who pays for the AEDs and supplies?

There is no central funding pool for AEDs, so each college or unit participating must fund the purchase of the AED and the ongoing expenses.

- How many cardiac arrests occur at UC?

While this number varies, typically less than one cardiac arrest occurs at UC in any given year.