

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) for _____

Purpose: To establish a protocol that ensures a rapid and effective response to cardiac emergencies, in compliance with Illinois HB 5394 and the American Heart Association's guidelines.

1. Identifying Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA): Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a life-threatening condition that occurs when the heart unexpectedly stops beating, leading to a sudden loss of blood flow to the brain and other vital organs. Key signs of SCA include sudden collapse, unresponsiveness, and abnormal or absent breathing. In some cases, individuals may gasp irregularly, which should not be mistaken for normal breathing. Victims will not respond to tapping or shouting, and no pulse will be detectable. Prompt recognition of these symptoms is critical, as immediate CPR and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can significantly increase the chances of survival.

2. Cardiac Emergency Response Team (CERT):

- **Composition:**
 - The Principal of _____ will appoint the CERT. This should include trained staff members such as teachers, administrators, school nurses, coaches, and security personnel.
- **Training:**
 - All CERT members must maintain current certification in CPR and AED use from a nationally recognized organization.
- **Responsibilities of CERT members:**
 - Initiate emergency response during an SCA.
 - Ensure prompt use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
 - Liaise with emergency medical services (EMS) upon their arrival.

3. AED Placement and Maintenance:

- **Locations:**
 - Principal to strategically place AEDs in accessible areas such as the main office, gymnasium, cafeteria, and near athletic fields.
- **Maintenance:**
 - CERT to conduct monthly inspections to ensure AEDs are functional and batteries are charged.
 - CERT to maintain a log of inspections and any maintenance performed.

4. Emergency Communication Plan:

- **Internal Communication:**
 - Establish a reliable system (e.g., intercom, two-way radios) to alert CERT members and staff during an emergency. That system will be: _____.
 - **External Communication:** Assign a team member to call 911, providing clear information about the victim's condition and precise location. That team member is: _____.
 - Ensure someone is designated to guide EMS to the exact location upon arrival.

5. Annual Training and Drills:

- **Training:**
 - CERT to provide annual refresher courses for all staff on CPR, AED use, and emergency procedures.
- **Drills:**

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- CERT to conduct annual cardiac emergency response drills to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the CERP in conjunction with local first responders.

6. Post-Event Review:

- **Debriefing:**
 - After an SCA, CERT to hold a debriefing session to assess the response and identify areas for improvement.
- **Documentation:**
 - CERT to complete an incident report detailing the event, actions taken, and outcomes.

7. Compliance and Review:

- **Policy Review:**
 - CERT to annually review and update the CERP in conjunction with local first responders to ensure compliance with Illinois HB 5394 and alignment with the latest guidelines from the American Heart Association.
- **Distribution:**
 - CERT to annually distribute the CERP to all teachers, administrators, school support personnel, coaches, and other identified staff members and volunteers.