

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who can apply to be designated *HEART Safe*?

Any entity within the community meeting the defined criteria.

Is there an application fee?

No, there is no application fee.

Why should my agency/community be designated as *HEART Safe*?

To make the agency/community a safer place to live, work, and play by being prepared as well as to reduce the number of deaths and disability associated with cardiac arrest.

When is the *HEART Safe Community Designation* application due?

HEART Safe designation application can be submitted to the Dutchess County Department of Health anytime, however review periods will be January and August.

For how long is the designation valid?

The *HEART Safe Community* designation is valid for two years, after which you will need to re-apply to maintain or upgrade your designation.

What is the cost associated with meeting the criteria to become a *HEART Safe Community*?

The cost will vary depending on characteristics including CPR training need and AED costs.

Who decides if an agency/community has met the criteria to be designated *HEART Safe*?

The Dutchess County *HEART Safe* committee is made up of Dutchess County Department of Health staff, representatives and/or volunteers of American Heart Association, and other community members appointed by the County Executive.

Will an AED always resuscitate someone in cardiac arrest?

The AED will look at the electrical activity of the heart. If the electrical activity is “chaotic” and needs a “restart” the unit will request a shock will be delivered. If someone is in cardiac arrest and the AED does not indicate a shock, CPR should be initiated.

Is the AED safe to use?

Absolutely! An AED is safe to use by anyone who has been trained in its operation. They are designed with multiple safeguards and warnings before any energy is released. There should be training or supervision from a trained person.

Can anyone buy an AED?

Yes, however, AEDs are manufactured and sold under guidelines approved by the FDA. For organizational use, the New York State Department of Health Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Notice of Intent must be completed and submitted. From home use, current FDA rules require a physician’s prescription to purchase an AED.

How much does an AED cost?

There is a variety of AEDs available. Some are designed for medical professionals and are priced higher than the AEDs that can be used by the general public. In New York State, there is a \$500 tax deduction available. For resuscitation of a friend, coworker, or loved one, it’s priceless. Websites for purchasing AEDs and financial assistance are listed in the Reference page.

What type of maintenance is involved with an AED?

The AED requires a daily inspection to ensure the unit is functioning. Weekly inspection is required to ensure the AED and the alarm on the cabinet is operating correctly and supplies are current. Every AED has specific criteria for inspection, but in general for inspections of AEDs and the cabinet, you must:

- Open the AED case and inspect the unit for damage
- Check expiration dates on the 2 sets of Adult; & 2 sets of Pediatric defibrillator pads and note dates on weekly checklist.
- Check “install before date” on spare battery and note date on weekly checklist.
- Check plastic bag for the following supplies: A pocket mask, disposable gloves, disposable shaver, disposable face shield with one-way valve, scissors, and towel.
- Notify Medical Director of use. If there is a data card in AED, remove and give to Medical Director.

Who can administer CPR and use the AED?

Anyone who is currently certified by a nationally recognized agency or is acting under the direction of someone with training (i.e. 911), acting in good faith, and within the constraints of their certification receives immunity from liability under Public Health Law 3000 a & b. This law precludes liability for ordinary negligence (i.e. failure to exercise reasonable care, causing harm inadvertently).

What if I am not trained?

If you come upon an unconscious victim and are not trained, it is of utmost importance to call 911. In Dutchess County, an Enhanced 911 operator will talk you through the steps of performing CPR and using an AED. The 911 operator will also get Advanced Care on the way quickly.

What if I need additional *HEART Safe Community* designation signs or decals?

For an additional fee, you can order additional signs or decals for your **HEART Safe** designated place. To request additional signage, contact the Dutchess County Department of Health at 845.486.3421.

Please note: Dutchess County **HEART Safe Community** designation signs are the property of Dutchess County Department of Health and must be returned to Dutchess County Department of Health if designation status is not maintained.