

**New York State Department of Health**  
**Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**  
**Requirements for Children’s Camps**  
**April 2024**

**What is required?**

[Section 3000-F](#) of Public Health Law (PHL) requires all regulated children’s camps to provide an automated external defibrillator (AED) or describe reasonable access to an AED. Additionally, the legislation requires each camp to have one or more staff possessing an acceptable certificate of training in the operation and use of an AED and have an implementation plan. The following information is provided to help children’s camp operators comply with AED requirements.

**How many AEDs are required?**

The law requires camps to make one AED available at camp or describe reasonable access to one AED available to the camp. AEDs are not required to accompany camp trips.

**What is considered reasonable access?**

Reasonable access means:

- The AED is kept in a location accessible to trained staff at all times the camp is in operation.
- The location of the AED should be easily identifiable by signage that is visible from the normal path of travel.

AEDs provided by facilities such as schools, parks, and other facilities/locations where the camp is held can satisfy the PHL requirement if the camp has access to the AED. It is recommended that when a camp utilizes an AED(s) provided by another facility, the camp advise the facility that they are relying on the AED to satisfy the public health law, determine if there are any unique procedures for accessing the equipment, and request to be informed if the AED will no longer be available for the camp’s use.

Camps that are establishing their own AED program (also known as a Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program) should consult with their Emergency Health Care Provider (EHCP) as required by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) [Policy Statement 09-03](#) when assessing the number and placement of AEDs at the facility.

The American Heart Association implementation guidance entitled [Your On-site AED Program](#) can be consulted for additional detail regarding best practices for providing and maintaining an AED.

**How many trained staff in the use and operation of AEDs are required?**

The camp must provide at least one staff member possessing an acceptable certificate of training in the operation and use of an AED. Camps may wish to certify multiple people to help ensure someone is always available in an emergency.

**Which AED training/certification courses are acceptable?**

Acceptable training courses are those approved by a nationally-recognized organization or the state emergency medical services council in the operation of AEDs. The law defines “nationally-recognized organization” as a national organization approved by the department for the purpose of training people in use of an AED. [BEMS Policy Statement 09-03](#) contains a list of approved training providers. CPR

certifications incorporating AED training that are listed on NYSDOH's [Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation \(CPR\) Fact Sheet](#) are also acceptable. Although the law allows for training course completion within the preceding twenty-four months of the camp session, the Department recommends camp staff have an AED certification that does not exceed one year from the date of course completion, which is consistent with the Subpart 7-2 requirement for CPR certification.

**What must be included in the implementation plan?**

Implementation plans must identify the location(s) and/or availability of the AED and protocols for the use of the AED during cardiac emergencies. Protocols for AED use during cardiac emergencies are the responsibility of the EHCP required for the PAD program, as outlined in the [BEMS Policy Statement 09-03](#). Camps that utilize an AED where the operator of the facility provides the AED access at the location must provide details of the locations of the AED(s) and any procedures to access the equipment and alert trained staff of the emergency.

Camps that are establishing their own AED/PAD plan must include an equipment checklist. An equipment checklist may include AED maintenance, inspections and testing specified by the manufacturer. Questions about these items should be directed to the AED manufacturer. Camps utilizing an AED where the operator of the facility provides the AED access at the location are not required to have an equipment checklist.

Camp AED implementation plans must be incorporated into the camp's written camp safety plan.

**Compliance with PHL [Section 3000-B](#)**

PHL Section 3000-F requires camps that establish and implement their own AED plan to do so in accordance with the requirements and protections of PHL [Section 3000-B](#), including establishment of a PAD program. For guidance about complying with this section of PHL and establishing a PAD program, please refer to the [BEMS Policy Statement 09-03](#) or contact your Regional Emergency Medical Services Council (REMSCO). A list of REMSCOs and contact information is available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/regional.htm>. Local health departments and State District offices that issue camps permits to operate do not have oversight of this requirement.

**Other Resources:**

[American Heart Association Cardiac Emergency Response Plan \(CERP\)](#)