



SMART HEART SPORTS COALITION

## **“AEDS FOR YOUTH” Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Why is it necessary to have AEDs at schools as well as school athletic facilities?***

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is indispensable technology used to help someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). It is a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart’s rhythm, and, if necessary, deliver an electric shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart reestablish an effective rhythm. Using an AED is currently the only way to restore a regular heart rhythm. With 4 in 10 SCAs among young people occurring when they are engaged in athletic activity, it is vital to have AEDs in schools and at youth sporting events as a preventive measure.

### ***Do AEDs expire?***

While AEDs don’t have specific expiration dates, they typically last from 10 to 15 years, depending on a number of factors, including how they are stored, maintained, inspected and used. Eventually, however, an AED will stop working. AED batteries typically last two to five years and costs hundreds of dollars to replace. A weak or expired battery is a leading cause of AED failure in emergencies. AEDs should be checked at least monthly for battery life as well as electrode/pads expiration dates. AED pads typically last two to five years before they expire. Expired pads may not deliver an effective shock because the adhesive gel dries out over time, causing pads not to stick to a person’s chest and reducing the effectiveness of a delivered shock. Pads should be thrown out or disposed of properly in accordance with the expiration date printed on their packaging.

### ***How prevalent are AEDs in schools and at school athletic facilities throughout the country?***

At present, only about half of states require AEDs in schools, and these laws vary widely, often lacking comprehensive guidelines on placement, access, and training. Even fewer states currently require AEDs to be located at or in close proximity to school athletic venues and events. While the Smart Heart Sports Coalition is working to help address this void and make AEDs mandatory in high school athletic settings, policymakers in state legislatures across the country caution that the relatively hefty price of AEDs is the single, biggest impediment to making AEDs more widespread. This challenge becomes more acute if and when states face budget shortfalls and other fiscal constraints.

### ***How much money will schools save by purchasing AEDs under the program?***

AEDs are essential, but expensive. They typically range in price from approximately \$1,000 to \$3,000 per unit, depending on the make and model. Through the AEDs for Youth program, schools and youth sports organizations across the county may purchase an “AED school bundle” or an “AED athletic bundle” – which includes the AED(s), along with essential accessories, device management support, (as well as access to discounts on CPR and AED training) – at substantial **discounts ranging from about 20 to 60 percent**. AEDs are only available in a bundle, ensuring schools and youth sports programs have all essential equipment and accessories.

### ***What is the difference between the “AED school bundle” and the “AED athletic bundle”?***

The AED school bundle includes equipment and accessories tailored for indoor settings, such as a school classroom or corridor. Such equipment includes an alarmed wall cabinet, three-dimensional AED sign, and carry case, among other items. The AED athletic bundle includes equipment and accessories tailored for outdoor athletic settings, such as outdoor athletic fields and courts. Such equipment includes a pelican case or AED backpack, among other items.

### ***What specific benefits, features, or products are included in the AED bundle?***

In addition to the AED device itself, the bundles include necessary accessories, such as a carry case (athletic bundle) or alarmed wall cabinet (school bundle), and replacement supplies, such as adult and pediatric pads, batteries, and rescue kits. Through the bundles, schools and youth sports programs also are provided device management support – such as online device tracking, customer support, and regular inspections and notifications – ensuring the AED(s) are in compliance and ready for use in case of an emergency. Furthermore, school districts/schools will receive CPR, AED use, and First Aid training from a network of certified and experienced CPR instructors, with the option of choosing a training format (i.e., whether in-person, online, or a hybrid of the two) that is most convenient and suitable for its personnel.

### ***What schools are eligible to participate in the program?***

Primary and secondary (K-12) public and private schools as well as youth sports organization serving youth up to the age of 17 may take part in the program. While the program is inclusive, easy to access, and does not request financial information of any kind, the program is designed to benefit schools and youth sports organizations that are under-resourced and may otherwise not be able to purchase AEDs without the substantial discounts provided by the program.

### ***How does a school or youth sports group benefit from the program and buy an AED bundle?***

A school or youth sports organization’s purchasing manager or representative must go to the Smart Heart Sports Coalition website at [www.smartheartsports.com](http://www.smartheartsports.com). The site features a section about the “AEDs for Youth” program, which includes more information and a high-level, side-by-side comparison of available AEDs. The chart is meant to assist school and youth sports

organization officials in evaluating and choosing the right AED for their particular school(s) and circumstances. From there, visitors can click on the link to the purchasing site for Coro Medical or Avive Solutions, where they can read more about the products, fill out the online application, and purchase their bundle of choice. Coro Medical and Avive also have customer service representatives on hand that can answer questions and provide assistance.

***What AEDs are available for purchase? Are schools and youth sports programs limited in the number of AEDs they can buy?***

This program gives schools and youth sports organizations the choice and flexibility of purchasing every FDA-approved AED at a discount, allowing school and youth sports groups the opportunity to select the AEDs that meet their needs, circumstances and budget. Through the program, leading AED companies Avive Solutions, Inc. (an AED manufacturer that distributes its own product) and Coro Medical (a leading, national AED distributor) are offering an “AED school bundle” and an “AED athletic bundle,” both of which include accessories as well as other support, such as training and program management. There is no limit or minimum on the number of AEDs that a school district or school must purchase in order to participate in the program, which will be available through December 31, 2025.