

# SAFETY NOTICE

## "JANET'S LAW"

On September 19, 2012 the State of New Jersey adopted P.L. 2012 c51, known as "Janet's Law". This law mandates the availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) in every public and non-public school in the state. Further, it mandates the availability of trained users that are certified in CPR and AED use when athletic events are taking place on school grounds. This law goes into effect on September 1, 2014.

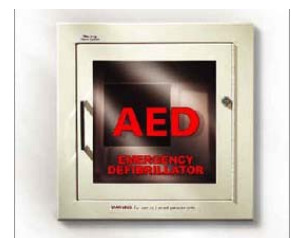
The provisions of this law include the following:

- Each public or non-public school shall have an AED which is made available in an unlocked location on school property with an appropriate identifying sign.
- The defibrillator shall be accessible during the school day and any other time when a school-sponsored athletic event or team practice is taking place in which pupils of the district or non-public school are participating.
- The defibrillator shall be within reasonable proximity of the school athletic field or gymnasium.
- A team coach, licensed athletic trainer or other designated staff member if there is no coach or licensed athletic trainer, who is present during the athletic event or team practice is trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of defibrillators.
- Each defibrillator must be tested and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.
- Establish an emergency action plan for responding to a sudden cardiac event, which includes details on who will respond, who will call 911, starting CPR, retrieving the defibrillator and assisting emergency responders.
- Maintaining a list of at least five school employees, team coaches or licensed athletic trainers who hold current CPR/AED certification from American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other training program recognized by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services. The list shall be updated at least once each semester of the school year.



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# CLARIFICATIONS TO JANET'S LAW

The following will help to clarify some common questions regarding the requirements of Janet's Law:

- The law specifically states that every public and non-public K-12 school property shall have an available defibrillator. This should alleviate any issue with access to a defibrillator when teams travel to other districts, including non-public schools. Further, it does not necessarily require a defibrillator in every building if the buildings are in close proximity and meet the "reasonable proximity" requirement. It also does not require defibrillators in buildings where there are no K-12 students.
- The defibrillator must be unlocked and accessible during the day and whenever a school-sponsored athletic event or team practice is taking place. This means that the defibrillator cannot be locked in the nurse's office after hours or when the nurse is not present.
- The defibrillator shall be within **reasonable proximity** to the school athletic field or gymnasium. The law does not quantify what is "reasonable" however the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and several industry standards use three minutes total time to retrieve the defibrillator and be at the patient's side with the unit. For a straight, unobstructed run by an average person this means placement of a unit within about 325 feet of the event. If you factor in steps, doors and a non-linear path, the distance may need to be shortened to compensate for the additional time necessary. It is likely larger districts with multiple fields and gymnasiums may have concurrent events that would necessitate multiple AED placements.
- The law specifically states "*school sponsored athletic event or team practice*". There is no specific requirement for access or certified responders for non-school events, including use by outside groups such as local leagues. It does not define "athletic event", however given the context of the law it seems it would refer to any school-sanctioned competitive athletic team. It does not address after-school clubs that may have an athletic component.
- A CPR/AED certified coach, athletic trainer or other designated staff member must be present at the athletic event or practice. There is an exception if you have a state-certified emergency services provider or certified first responder on site during the event, such as an ambulance squad at a football game.
- This is just a summary of the regulation. For the full context of the law, please visit the SPELLJIF website. Contact the JIF Safety Coordinator with any questions.



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