

LaHarpe Community School District #347

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Dear Facility User/Renter:

The statistics are startling. In 2013, the American Heart Association reported 9,500 cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in youths. What's more, across the United States, even the best emergency medical services (EMS) systems can't reach cardiac arrest victims for 3 to 5 minutes. Therefore, the actions taken by bystanders during the first few minutes of a cardiac emergency are critical. Prompt action can double or triple a victim's chance of survival. It has been proven that a carefully coordinated response to cardiac emergencies will reduce death and disability.

We are pleased to announce that we have implemented a lifesaving Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.

How can you be prepared?

As our school has taken the time to implement this plan, which includes educating our school community about sudden cardiac arrest, getting our cardiac emergency response team CPR trained, maintaining our AED9s) so they are ready to be utilized, and documenting and practice drilling our response plan, we recommend that your organization do likewise.

If you are renting the facility outside school hours, you can orient your organization to the cardiac chain of survival, which entails having a plan for who is going to perform the steps below:

- Recognize Sudden Cardiac Arrest (assume SCA in anyone collapsed and unresponsive)
- Call 911
- Retrieve an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) located outside of the north gym doors, closest to the Principal's Office
- Begin Hands-Only CPR (push hard and fast in center of the chest about 100 times a minute)
- Direct EMS to the scene (a member of your team is outside the school entrance directing EMS to the victim)

Every person associated with your organization can take few minutes to watch a video demonstrating the Cardiac Chain of Survival at www.heart.org/handsonlycpr. These videos demonstrate hands-only CPR in action. You can also locate and attend a classroom-based CPR and AED course. Visit www.heart.org/cpf and click the red "Find a Course" button.

In the event of a cardiac emergency, after implementing response, please notify, Ryan Hopper at 309-333-1467 or Janet Gladu at 47-204-3173.

Thank you for your support.