

Public Access Defibrillation Program Expansion at City Owned Leisure Sites

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Report Summary

This report provides an update on the expansion of the City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services maintained Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program in City owned leisure sites.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

Costs associated with this initiative will be absorbed through the operating budget.

Background

Cardiac arrest substantially contributes to avoidable death and disability. Using cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillators (AEDs) within minutes of cardiac arrest can dramatically improve survival rates.

PAD programs and policies work to ensure that AEDs are immediately available for use by lay bystanders when and where they are needed. The City of Greater Sudbury currently operates 114 public access defibrillators across various public sites including workplaces, arenas, baseball fields, schools, and libraries. In 2021, CGS Paramedic Services responded to 190 medical cardiac arrest emergencies. The more defibrillators and targeted responders we have in the City of Greater Sudbury, the less likely people will die from a sudden cardiac arrest.

Our goal is to put a defibrillator in every public and private building, at every facility and event, increase the number of targeted responders that are trained to use them, and raise public awareness so residents recognize the signs of cardiac arrest and know what to do.

PAD Program Expansion

AED Loaner Program

The City of Greater Sudbury's Automated External Defibrillator Loaner Program is a joint initiative between Paramedic and Leisure Services and can provide a defibrillator up to 72 hours for events. Loaner programs allow qualifying individuals to borrow an AED for events such as sports tournaments, festivals, or any large gathering. To be eligible for this program, applicants must:

- Ensure there will be an adequately trained person(s) on site during the event
- Show a copy of a valid first aid / CPR card and a valid photo ID (such as a driver's licence) when picking up the equipment
- Submit an online application two weeks before the event

The CGS AED Loaner Program allows for quick and easy access to AEDs throughout the city without any costs to the user.

PAD Program Expansion

The City of Greater Sudbury Leisure Services has identified a total of 125 baseball, soccer & cricket fields within the City of Greater Sudbury. A small number of these locations have AEDs located on site and are typically located within a field house or other building on site. These buildings are only accessible when unlocked by City staff. No access to the AEDs is allowed after hours. In an effort to increase accessibility, current AEDs which are located within a City building (Arena/Leisure building) and are on the same site as a baseball, soccer, or cricket field, are to be relocated outside to allow 24/7 access to the public in both areas. These sites all require an outdoor wall mount AED cabinet that provides heating, lighting, ventilation and monitoring which will also ensure protection of the unit from weather and preventable damage.

Sites to have their AEDs relocated include:

Terry Fox Sports Complex	James Jerome Sports Complex	Carmichael Arena
Confederation Arena	Centennial Arena	Garson Arena
Queen's Athletic Field	Dowling Leisure Center	Levack Arena
Lionel E Lalonde Centre		

Relocating AEDs from the 10 sites, currently only accessible during the day, to outside locations will allow AED accessibility for 27 venues. These venues include outdoor rinks, baseball fields, soccer fields, football fields and skateboarding parks that are in close proximity to the original 10 sites.

Conclusion

Providing access to public CPR training programs and increasing public AED accessibility are two ways Paramedic Services are making efforts towards making the City of Greater Sudbury a cardiac safe city. The City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic and Leisure Services are working together to optimize the location of current AEDs within the PAD program as well as adding AEDs to new leisure sites.

The AED Loaner Program aims to provide citizens with easy access to City owned AEDs for up to 72 hours for eligible citizens or groups such as sports associations, or organizers of large gatherings. This access will place life-saving equipment within reach when or if needed at events within the City. Providing high quality CPR and using an AED from a public access defibrillator can improve the chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.