

Packaging AED Implementation Together with “*The Warning Signs*”

Many people who read this article are concerned about (or plan to become involved in) the promotion of automated external defibrillators (better known as AEDs) in their communities and, specifically, in their schools.

The Canadian SADS Foundation believes that schools, community centres, pools, shopping malls and all public venues where large numbers of people gather should have AEDs.

However, placing an AED should not be the end game. Rather, the AED is a doorway which provides educators and health promoters access to the people who utilize those buildings. Seen from this perspective, AED implementation leverages the opportunity to deliver critical heart health messaging within the context of a well designed AED program.

Unfortunately, in many CPR/AED programs, significant cardiac education opportunities have been overlooked. While most of these types of programs include information about the importance of early recognition for heart attacks and strokes, rarely do these programs incorporate “**The Warning Signs**” for inherited cardiac rhythm disorders.

The Canadian SADS Foundation asks you to:

- Become involved in AED implementation in your own communities – know what’s going on in your own communities
- Support AED programs for all schools
- Insist that CPR and AED training include the recognition of “**The Warning Signs**” for inherited cardiac rhythm disorders

Learn to recognize “*The Warning Signs*”

- **Fainting (syncope) or seizure** during physical activity.
- **Fainting (syncope) or seizure** resulting from emotional excitement, emotional distress or startle.
- **Family history of unexpected sudden death** during physical activity or during a seizure, or any other unexplained sudden death of an otherwise healthy young person.

Please contact *The Canadian SADS Foundation* at info@sads.ca if you require more information. You can also visit our website at: www.sads.ca