

Emergency Health Services
239 Brownlow Ave., Suite 300
Dartmouth, NS B3B 2B2



www.savelivesns.ca

Dear EHS Medical First Responders and MFR stakeholders,

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the Emergency Health Services (EHS) Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Registry program, a very exciting and worthwhile program that will help increase survival rates of out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest and also have a positive impact on heart health throughout our province.

Firstly, we just want to take a quick moment to recap the EHS AED Registry program. It is important to note that this 'program' is not just about AEDs, and encompasses the first three links of the Heart & Stroke chain of survival: 9-1-1, CPR, and AED. The main features of this program include:

- ♥ Maintenance of AEDs ("inspectors" under the program)
- ♥ Volunteer Bystander Responders
- ♥ Public Access Defibrillation program (PAD) through our Medical Communication Centre
- ♥ Public Education, Awareness, and Promotion

The second feature, volunteer bystander responders, launched on October 4, 2017 as part of a soft launch of the program. Anyone who is associated with an AED, or is approved by the owner or designate, can be registered as a responder. We have recently seen an increase in registered AEDs as well as volunteer responders (we currently have 105 registered responders and over 800 registered AEDs). These bystanders are willing to help bring their AED to a cardiac arrest situation and will get a text and/or phone call if that emergency is within 1,200 feet (365.76 meters) of their location. Your front line staff may be meeting some of these ambitious members of the public either before, during, or after they arrive on scene (depending on how long it takes them to get there). While we have made attempts to isolate the calls that these members get alerted to, it is possible that they are on scene of a patient that does not need CPR or defibrillation (i.e. DNR or DOA). We encourage positive interactions with these members of the public whether they are needed or not and any feedback can be sent to the AED Registry Program Coordinator.

The third feature, public access through the EHS Medical Communications Centre (MCC), is not yet functional. We continue to experience delays due to protocol development and technology integration. We do continue to aggressively work with our software vendors on solutions and, when that portion does go live, that will effectively end the soft launch.

Thank you for supporting the EHS AED Registry. Please continue to help us spread the word as we work to build our database of AED locations throughout Nova Scotia by sharing our website, www.savelivesns.ca and using the hashtags, #JoinTheMovement and #SaveLivesNS. Thank you!

Mike Janczyszyn

AED Registry Coordinator

T: 902.407.3284 C: 902.266.9557 F: 902.832.8359