

Cardiac arrest happens when the entire heart stops beating, and can happen anywhere to anyone at any time. Cardiac arrest may be caused by irregular heart rhythms called arrhythmias – making the heart beat too fast, too slowly, or irregularly.

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing arrhythmias. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. Early CPR and defibrillation are important steps in the chain of survival to improve chances of survival and recovery from cardiac arrest.



Many organizations are beginning to have an onsite public access AED. The price of an AED varies by make and model. Most AEDs cost between \$1,500 to \$2,000. Here are several options if you are interest in purchasing an AED:

**Bound Tree
Medical**
boundtree.com

Philips Healthcare
usa.philips.com

Stryker Medical
stryker.com/us

Zoll Medical
zoll.com

The QCHC does not endorse any of these organizations, and there may be others in our area that are not listed.

In addition to purchasing an AED, it is important to:

1. Place signage and AED in a highly visible public area,
2. Familiarize staff with the AED to help increase comfort and level of confidence, and
3. Conduct routine checks and maintenance.