

# Prevent Sudden Cardiac Death

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## 3 Simple Steps to Protect Your Family

### 1: Learn the Early Warning Signs

If you or your child has had one or more of these signs, see your primary care physician:

- Fainting suddenly and without warning, especially during exercise or in response to loud sounds like doorbells, alarm clocks or ringing phones
- Unusual chest pain or shortness of breath during exercise
- Family members who had sudden, unexplained and unexpected death before age 50
- Family members who have been diagnosed with a condition that can cause sudden cardiac death, such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) or Long QT syndrome
- A seizure suddenly and without warning, especially during exercise or in response to loud sounds like doorbells, alarm clocks or ringing phones

### 2: Learn to Recognize Sudden Cardiac Arrest

If you see someone collapse, assume he has experienced sudden cardiac arrest and respond quickly. This victim will be unresponsive, gasping or not breathing normally, and may have some jerking. Send for help and start CPR. You cannot hurt him.

### 3: Learn Hands-Only CPR

Effective CPR saves lives by circulating blood to the brain and other vital organs until rescue teams arrive. It is one of the most important life skills you can learn – and it's easier than ever.

- Call 911 (or ask bystanders to call 911 and get an AED)
- Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Kneel at the victim's side, place your hands on the lower half of the breastbone, one on top of the other, elbows straight and locked. Push down 2 inches, then up 2 inches, at a rate of 100 times/minute, to the beat of the song "Stayin' Alive."
- If an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is available, open it and follow the voice prompts. It will lead you step-by-step through the process, and will never shock a victim that does not need a shock.

Project S.A.V.E. works to ensure that schools across Georgia are trained and prepared to handle a sudden cardiac arrest. Make sure that wherever your child plays, practices, or goes to school is heart-safe. Learn more at [choa.org/projectsave](http://choa.org/projectsave) or email [richard.lamphier@choa.org](mailto:richard.lamphier@choa.org).

Learn more about Hands-only CPR at [www.heart.org/hands-onlyCPR](http://www.heart.org/hands-onlyCPR)