

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Weapons Screening Technology

What is weapons screening/abatement technology?

Weapons screening technology is equipment that detects potential weapons located on a person or within their belongings.

How exactly does the weapons screening equipment work?

The equipment has sensors to identify and detect weapons such as guns, items with metallic weapon signatures, and improvised explosive devices. The equipment can distinguish between everyday items, such as cell phones and metal water bottles allowing students, teachers and staff to move through the weapons screening process without stopping.

How does the alert process work with the weapons screening equipment?

The weapons screening equipment consists of two towers that students and staff pass through upon entry into the school. If the towers turn green, no potential threat has been detected and the individual is clear to proceed into the building. If the weapons screening equipment identifies a potential weapon threat, the tower light will flash red with an audible alert sound.

What happens when there is a positive (red) alert from the weapons screening equipment?

Identified individuals will be redirected to undergo a more thorough, secondary screening by administrators and security teams.

Has the weapons screening equipment been safety tested?

The system has been safety tested and meets the following certifications.

Is the weapons screening equipment safe for people with an implanted or wearable medical device?

In keeping with FDA guidance on emergency alert systems and walk-through weapons screening technology, it is recommended that those with implantable or wearable medical devices consult their device manufacturer or physician for information relating to their own specific medical device.

Where else is this technology being used?

The equipment is being used in public events, schools, hospitals, theme parks, stadiums, government buildings, casinos, houses of worship, and workplaces.

Where can I find more information regarding the design of the equipment?

The equipment complies with regulatory requirements for human exposure and emission limits.

Does the weapons screening equipment use facial recognition?

No. The equipment does not use facial recognition.

What kind of data does the weapons screening equipment collect? And how does it use that data?

The weapons screening equipment retains data that is statistical, meaning how many people passed through and alerts, etc. The weapons screening equipment does not collect any personal identifying information.

How Can I Report a Weapon in School?

Students are encouraged to inform school administration if they see and/or hear about a weapon on school campus. Students and citizens can also call 911 to report threats or acts of violence. You may also report concerning behaviors to Alexandria's 24-hour hotline for support at (703)746-5400.

Weapons screening equipment manufacturer handouts can be found on the Safety and Security Services [web page](#).