

# OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION

## Guidance for Implementing Overdose Prevention in Schools

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# Background

- Deaths from opioid overdoses have reached epidemic levels in our community over the past 2 years

According to ECDOH statistics, 44.5% of those deaths occurred in the suburbs

- What precipitated this unprecedented increase in opioid overdoses?

NYS institutes I-STOP prescription monitoring system, causing increased use of street drugs

To combat the continuing rise in opioid–related deaths in NYS, laws were recently enacted allowing schools to provide and maintain opioid-antagonists (naloxone) on-site in each facility to ensure ready and appropriate access for use during emergencies to any student or staff suspected of having opioid overdose

# Statutory Framework for Opioid Overdose Prevention in NYS

- Public Health Law §3309 and its implementing regulations in 10 NYCRR §80.138 establish the framework for regulated community access to naloxone.
- The law states use of an opioid antagonist pursuant to this section shall be considered first aid or emergency treatment for the purpose of any statute relating to liability.
- This law allows trained non-medical, unlicensed persons to use naloxone on individuals suspected of an opioid overdose if trained by a NYSDOH approved training curriculum.

# Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2015 added Education Law §922

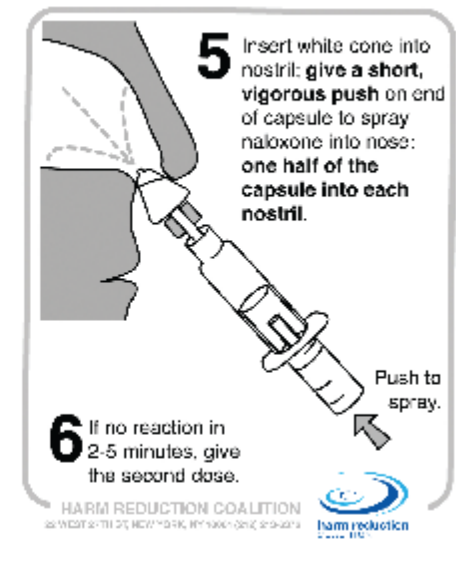
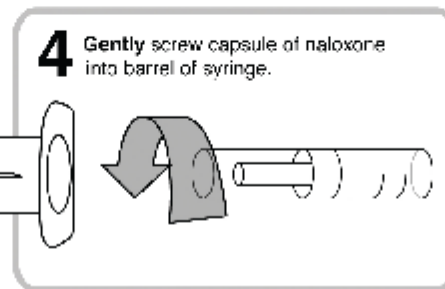
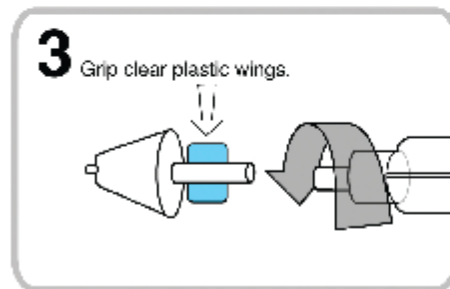
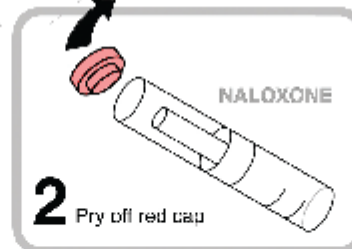
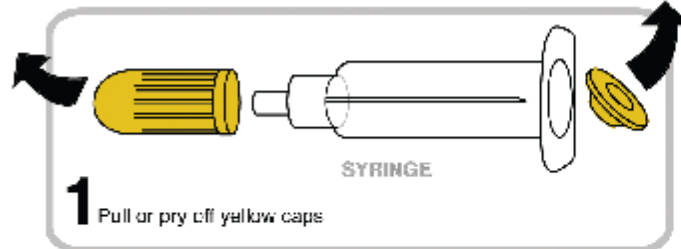
- Permits NYS school districts, BOCES, charter schools, non-public elementary and/or secondary schools to provide and maintain opioid antagonists on site in each instructional facility to ensure emergency access for any student or school personnel having opioid overdose symptoms, whether or not they have a previous known history of opioid abuse.
- Any person employed by any such entity that has elected to participate may administer an opioid antagonist in the event of an emergency, provided that such person shall have been trained by a program approved under section three thousand three hundred nine of the public health law.

# "Good Samaritan Law" Public Health Law, Article 30-Section 3000-a

- Covers the liability of the non-licensed person when responding to an emergency situation
- *any person who voluntarily ...renders first aid or emergency treatment ...to a person who is unconscious, ill, or injured, shall not be liable for damages for injuries alleged to have been sustained by such person or for damages for the death of such person ..”*
- Naloxone is a “do no harm drug” because it only affects persons with opiates in their system

# Naloxone (Narcan) is an opioid reversal agent

## How to Give Nasal Spray Naloxone



# Options

The district may opt not to maintain naloxone on-site for emergency first-aid, and EMS will be responsible for provision of care,

OR

The district may elect to participate in the opioid overdose prevention program and choose the most appropriate option for participation.



## Administration of Naloxone in School Settings

### Does Your School or School District Have a School Medical Director?

\*Please note: Education Law Article 19 Section 902 requires all public school districts to employ a qualified physician or nurse practitioner to perform the duties of the director of school health services, aka school medical director.

YES

STEP 1: Board of Education/Governing Body Approval  
STEP 2: Policies and Procedures Approved

The school/district may register with NYSDOH to become a Registered Program. Such programs receive opioid antagonists at no cost, and *train unlicensed school personnel* to administer to student and staff on site with signs of overdose.

AND/OR

School nurses who are part of a NYSDOH school opioid overdose prevention program can also receive opioid antagonists at no cost.

(EL Article 19 section 922,  
PHL Section 3309)

OR

RN may administer opioid antagonist to anyone at school or school event or appears with signs of overdose under a non-patient specific order from the School Medical Director

(EL Article 139 section 6909)  
*Under a non-patient specific order from a physician or nurse practitioner, an RN may administer opioid antagonist to anyone who appears with signs*

NO

STEP 1: Board of Education/Governing Body Approval  
STEP 2: Policies and Procedures Approved

*Unlicensed school personnel* may obtain training and opioid antagonists at a NYSDOH Registered Program. Such unlicensed trained school personnel may administer to students and staff on site with signs of overdose.

(EL Article 19 section 922 and  
PHL section 3309)

\*Please note: School personnel are highly encouraged to view the NYSDOH approved training webinar specific to schools.

# **OPTION #1- Becoming a NYSDOH Registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Program**

- Create district approved procedures.
- Designate a program director, in the school district may be the Superintendent, Principal, RN or district designee, with overall responsibility for the program
- Designate a clinical director, in the school district this must be the medical director, who is a duly licensed physician or nurse practitioner, to provide clinical oversight of the program.
- Refer to the New York Statewide School Health Services (NYSSHSC) website to review instructions for submitting the NYSDOH Registration Form to become a NYSDOH Registered Opioid Overdose Program.

## OPTION #1- Becoming a NYSDOH Registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, continued

- Train volunteer, unlicensed school staff as overdose responders using the NYSDOH approved training webinar located on the NYSSHSC website. Unlicensed school staff can only participate if the school district registers with the NYSDOH.
- Obtain naloxone. School districts registered as NYSDOH opioid overdose programs will receive free naloxone kits which will be sent directly to the clinical director (medical director).
- Establish and maintain a record keeping system for both responder training and naloxone inventory.
- Notify administrations of opioid antagonists to the clinical and program director so that they may report to the NYSDOH.

# Clinical Director (School District Medical Director) Responsibilities

- Obtain naloxone as the designated prescriber for administration by volunteer trained unlicensed school personnel and/or RN's.
- Create protocols for responding to suspected opioid overdoses.
- The training program has already been developed in conjunction with the NYSDOH, and has received approval and endorsement by the NYSDOH to implement a school opioid overdose prevention program. Additional, guidance has been developed to ensure all responders are properly trained, which in school district could be a licensed medical professional such as the RN that can verify training and complete a compliance checklist.
- Designate medical professionals in the school district (RNs), to furnish or provide shared access of naloxone to volunteer trained unlicensed responders. Shared access of naloxone located in a central location is permitted as long as responders are trained in accordance with the NYSDOH regulations, have a common organizational or workforce bond such as being part of the same school/school district, and there are policies and procedures in place within that organization to ensure orderly, controlled access to an opioid antagonist by an identifiable pool of trained overdose responders.
- Review reports of all administrations of naloxone and report to program director and NYSDOH.

# OPTION #2- Issuing a Non-Patient Specific Order

- As a NYS licensed prescriber, the school's medical director can issue a non-patient specific order to school nurses (RNs) to administer naloxone.
- Under this option the medical director, in collaboration with school administration will acquire the naloxone and provide to the school.
- School districts who choose to utilize this method of implementing an opioid overdose prevention program are **not eligible** to receive naloxone from NYSDOH.

## Option #3: Permitting Volunteers to be trained by a NYSDOH Registered Overdose Prevention Program

- Schools without medical directors may permit volunteer unlicensed school personnel to be trained to administer IN naloxone by collaborating with a NYSDOH Registered Overdose Prevention Program in their area.
- The school will become a participant under an already established registered program, and will be provided a NYSDOH approved training curriculum and receive free IN naloxone kits.
- Prior to contacting a NYSDOH Registered Program, schools must have approval from their governing body, and have approved policies and procedures in place. Schools that do not have a medical director but are electing to participate must have policies and procedures approved by the BOE or governing body in place prior to contacting a NYSDOH Registered Program in their area. These schools will then need to link with a New York State DOH-registered opioid overdose prevention program for purposes of training non-licensed personnel and furnishing them with naloxone.

# What are other school districts doing?

Numerous local districts have registered as  
Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs.

(Amherst, Erie 1 BOCES, Hamburg, Lockport, Williamsville [in process])

Some have chosen to use non-patient specific  
orders.

(Clarence, Sweet Home, Frontier)

Some districts have chosen not to maintain  
naloxone on-site, and intend to rely on EMS  
response.

(Niagara Falls)

# Recommendation for Ken Ton UFSD

To ensure the health & safety of our students & staff, an Opioid Overdose Prevention policy should be incorporated as emergency care and first aid for a life-threatening condition.

It is the opinion of the district nurse practitioner medical director that the most effective policy choice is Option #1: Become a New York State registered opioid overdose prevention program



# Rationale

- School should be responsible for anticipating and preparing to respond to a variety of emergencies
- When administered quickly and effectively, naloxone has the potential to immediately restore breathing to a victim experiencing an opioid overdose

# Conclusion

Opioid overdose is a crisis in our community, and overdose prevention saves lives.

Naloxone is considered first aid or emergency treatment, and should be available in our schools for students and staff.

It is inexpensive, safe, & effective.

# Resources

Additional information is available at the  
NYSDOH Opioid Prevention webpage:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/overdose>

& New York Statewide School Health Services  
Center link:

<http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com>