

NALOXONE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS PROGRAM

General Public & First Responder Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated October 2020

1. What is naloxone?

Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug (i.e. prescription pain medication or heroin). When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. You can learn more about this lifesaving medication on the [Department of Health's website](#).

2. Where can I get naloxone in Pennsylvania?

Through [Act 139 of 2014](#) (also known as David's Law), members of the community, family members, friends, and bystanders may be prescribed naloxone and can lawfully administer the drug to someone who is experiencing an overdose. Pennsylvania's Physician General has written standing orders for the general public to be able to obtain naloxone without a prescription from their doctor. You can print a document below and take it to your local pharmacy to obtain naloxone:

- [Naloxone Standing Order – For General Public](#)
- [Naloxone Standing Order – For First Responders](#)

In addition to providing naloxone for individuals in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose, [Act 139](#) also includes a 'Good Samaritan' provision that offers certain criminal and civil protections for individuals who call 911 in the event they witness an overdose.

3. I'm an organization that works to prevent overdoses in Pennsylvania. Where can I get naloxone at no cost?

If you are a first responder group, you can receive intranasal naloxone, also known as Narcan[®], at no cost through the *Naloxone for First Responders Program (NFRP)*. Narcan[®] is an FDA-approved naloxone nasal spray supplied as a single 4 mg dose of naloxone hydrochloride in an 0.1 ml nasal spray device. A network of Centralized Coordinating Entities (CCEs) distribute state-purchased naloxone to provide to the following priority first responder groups across the Commonwealth:

- Organizations that provide services and supports to individuals who are currently using substances, such as harm reduction organizations;
- Individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) and/or opioid use disorder (OUD) leaving county and/or state correctional facilities;
- Individuals leaving an SUD/OUD treatment facility;
- Individuals receiving care in emergency departments for an overdose;
- Probation and Parole Officers;

- Law enforcement agencies (including municipal police, sheriff's offices, campus police, campus security, school resource officers, and park rangers);
- Fire fighters (to include both volunteer and paid fire fighters);
- Emergency medical services, advanced life support, basic life support, and emergency medical technicians; and/or
- Other first responder organizations serving individuals and communities impacted by substance use that are legally organized and trained to respond to overdose emergencies and administer intranasal naloxone.

County/Regional CCEs serve as the primary point of contact for first responders within their communities to request and receive naloxone at no cost.

You can find contact information for the CCE serving your county/region using an interactive directory on PCCD's website: https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/advisory_boards/Pages/Naloxone-for-First-Responders.aspx.

In addition to these designated County/Regional CCEs, PCCD has also designated a state-level allocation of naloxone to supplement County/Regional naloxone distribution efforts and provide Narcan® to harm reduction organizations, treatment providers, and state/county jail reentry programs.

If you are a first responder or organization in need of naloxone, please reach out to your relevant County/Regional CCE directly prior to contacting PCCD. If you are having difficulty getting in contact with a CCE, please email PCCD staff at RA-PCCD_ExecutiveOfc@pa.gov.

4. Does my organization need to complete training before receiving naloxone from a CCE?

If you are a law enforcement agency, fire department, or fire company receiving naloxone through the state procured contract, you must complete training through programs developed by the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, available at no cost, or another approved training program. Training is available through two approved online training sites: getnaloxonenow.org and [PA Virtual training Network \(PAVTN\)](http://PAVirtualTrainingNetwork.org). Law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and fire companies may be asked by CCEs providing naloxone to ensure training compliance by providing certificates of completion or an assurance that training has been completed.

Although not necessary in order to obtain the medication, it is recommended that other first responder organizations and individuals receive training to recognize the signs and symptoms of an overdose and to learn how to properly administer naloxone.

5. What agreements and/or documentation needs to be in place for a CCE to provide my organization with state-funded Narcan® through the *NFRP*?

[Act 139 of 2014](#) is a state law in Pennsylvania that allows first responders (law enforcement, firefighters, EMS) acting at the direction of a health care professional authorized to prescribe naloxone, to administer the drug to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose. The law also provides immunity from prosecution for those responding to and reporting overdoses.

Pursuant to [Act 139](#), any non-licensed first responder agency (law enforcement agency, fire department, fire company) obtaining, carrying, and administering naloxone must first enter into a written agreement with a licensed first responder agency (EMS agency) or a Health Care Professional authorized to

prescribe naloxone to have that health care professional dispense, prescribe or distribute Naloxone directly or by a standing order. A prerequisite for authorization is completion of educational requirements outlined under (A)(2) or (A)(3) for each law enforcement officer or firefighter.

NOTE: Only first responder agencies identified in Act 139 must comply with these authorization requirements.

6. What information or data will I need to share in order to receive naloxone through *NFRP*?

Organizations serving as CCEs are required to provide the following information to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) on a quarterly basis:

- A. Total number of naloxone kits distributed by CCE
- B. Number of kits remaining at CCE that are within 6 months of their expiration date
- C. Number of kits provided to each recipient
- D. Number of doses of naloxone administered to individuals
- E. Number of individuals to whom naloxone was administered
- F. Number of naloxone administrations resulting in overdose reversal
- G. Number of naloxone doses provided through leave behind and redistribution programs

First responder groups receiving naloxone through *NFRP* will be asked to provide information to support these data collection and reporting efforts, where possible. Aggregate, county-level information is presented regularly by PCCD to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and other members of the Pennsylvania Opioid Command Center to inform statewide responses to the opioid and substance abuse epidemics.

7. What do I do with naloxone that I've received from a CCE that is approaching expiration (within 2-4 months)?

If your first responder organization has Narcan® that is within 2-4 months of its expiration date, please contact your respective County/Regional CCE to request an exchange. PCCD can facilitate the supply of near-expiration medication returned to areas of the Commonwealth with high levels of need using a reallocation process.

8. I recently heard about an extension of the shelf life of Narcan® by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 24 months to 36 months. What are the impacts of that decision and what does it cover?

The FDA has approved the extension of the shelf life of Narcan® nasal spray from 24 months to 36 months. This extension will be applicable only to new product, which will be labeled with the new expiration date. As of October 2020, this product has not yet been distributed. Accordingly, product currently in the market which you may have in inventory is still subject to the expiration dating printed on the packaging for the product. In other words, all Narcan® remains subject to the expiration dating printed on its specific package.

If you have any questions regarding the Shelf Life Extension or related concerns, please contact Christa Palaschak, Director of Community Health Solutions for PA, MD and DE at Emergent BioSolutions, at palaschac@ebisi.com or 856-607-5393.

9. Who can I reach out to if I am having difficulty getting in touch with a CCE or if there aren't enough supplies available at a CCE to meet my organization's needs?

If you are an organization that has requested naloxone from a CCE and did not receive a response or were told that there was not enough supply to meet your needs, please contact Samantha Koch, PCCD's Senior Project Manager, at sakoch@pa.gov or 717-265-8474.

NOTE: If your organization would like to purchase Narcan® directly, please contact Christa Palaschak, Director of Community Health Solutions for PA, MD and DE at Emergent BioSolutions, at palaschac@ebsi.com or 856-607-5393.