

Naloxone for K-12 Public Schools

VDH Naloxone Distribution
Team | March 26, 2024

Agenda

Introduction to Opioid Reversal Agents

VDH Naloxone Distribution

Ways to Access Naloxone for K-12 Public Schools

Training, Guidance and Additional Resources

What is naloxone?

- **Naloxone is an opioid reversal agent** - a medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Examples of opioids include oxycodone, fentanyl, and heroin. Opioid reversal agents work by binding to opioid receptors in the body, rapidly displacing any opioid drug bound to these receptors and reversing the effects of opioids. A commonly known opioid reversal agent that is available in Virginia is naloxone, also known as the brand-name Narcan®.
- Naloxone is FDA approved for children and adults. Parental consent may be required for individuals under 18 years old to access naloxone.
- Naloxone is safe to use and will **not** harm someone if they're overdosing on drugs other than opioids, or not experiencing an overdose at all.
- The VDH Division of Pharmacy (DPS) is distributing naloxone 4mg nasal spray, which the FDA approved in March 2023 as the first naloxone product for use without a prescription. Following FDA approval, the manufacturers worked to transition to provide the nonprescription labeled product. Both Narcan® and generic alternative are now commercially available as an over-the-counter (OTC) product.
- Opioid reversal agents, including generic naloxone and brand-name Narcan, are included in the statewide standing order for naloxone and must be maintained in accordance with the Virginia Board of Pharmacy Naloxone Protocol.

Intro to the VDH Opioid Reversal Agent Distribution Program

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Pharmacy Services (DPS) distributes opioid reversal agents, such as naloxone, and harm reduction test strips to eligible entities and individuals at no cost across Virginia.

- The current focus is distribution of no-cost naloxone to high-priority populations and settings, including:
 - People who use drugs (PWUD)
 - Friends, family, and caregivers of people who use drugs
 - People who work with people who use drugs
 - High-priority locations within communities, including authorized comprehensive harm reduction sites, community services boards, local health departments, first responders (law enforcement agencies, fire service organizations, licensed emergency medical services (EMS) agencies), **public school divisions** and other community organizations that have high levels of interaction with people who use drugs and their friends and family

This targeted distribution ensures that available funds are used effectively, that naloxone distributed by VDH is highly likely to reach people and organizations with the greatest need, and that VDH naloxone distribution has the greatest possible impact on VDH's ultimate goal of reducing overdose deaths.

How Can My Public School Division Access Naloxone?

- Public school divisions may order no-cost naloxone from VDH to maintain as **undesignated stock** in the school setting for use by authorized individuals in **emergency situations**.
- For example, schools may stock naloxone in a secure location in the nurse's office or front office. No-cost naloxone that VDH provides to schools should be provided based on what is included in the agreement (MOU) and should not be dispensed to the staff or student population.
- **Public school divisions** can enter into an agreement with VDH for their public schools to receive no-cost naloxone through VDH DPS by completing the application form for an agreement on the [VDH naloxone webpage](#). Once an agreement is executed, the appropriate point-of-contact, whether that be at the division or local school level, may order no-cost naloxone through the order form found on the same webpage.

Naloxone and Test Strips Request Process for Eligible Community Partners

Step 1: Apply

[Use this form to APPLY](#) if it is the first time your organization has requested naloxone OR if your organization's agreement with VDH has expired. Once all signatures are obtained and the agreement is executed, the organization is responsible for ensuring the agreement is updated before expiration date.

To renew an existing agreement, please contact opioidreversal@vdh.virginia.gov.

Step 2: Order

[Use this form to ORDER](#) after your organization has a fully executed agreement with the Virginia Department of Health for provision of naloxone.

If you are unsure whether your organization has an executed agreement or if an agreement is still active, please contact opioidreversal@vdh.virginia.gov.

Step 3: Return

[Please use this form to RETURN](#) expired, unused, or damaged naloxone to the Virginia Department of Health. Sites are required to return expired, unused, or damaged naloxone kits and may not distribute them to other organizations.

NALOXONE PROCESS FLOWCHART FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Download [Naloxone Standing Order](#) ↓

Where will the school acquire the undesignated stock of naloxone?

VDH Pharmacy

Does the school have a current MOU?

NO

The school should apply for a MOU with VDH [here](#)

VDH DPS initiates the MOU process with the school POC

The school POC signs the MOU

VDH signs the MOU and sends the executed MOU to the school POC

YES

The school orders the medication [here](#)

Naloxone order shipped to the school

Other Local Pharmacy

The school provides the local pharmacy with the standing order

The pharmacy distributes undesignated naloxone

The school pays the pharmacy for the undesignated naloxone

VDH: Virginia Department of Health
DPS: Division of Pharmacy Services

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
POC: Point of Contact

Resources: [VDH Naloxone Website](#)

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

School divisions should consider the following when working with their schools to ensure access to naloxone

- Communication regarding status of application or agreement. If an agreement is executed between VDH and the school division, consider providing the agreement to each school receiving naloxone for awareness.
- Communication regarding the mechanism by which the individual school requests naloxone, whether the school division orders or the individual school orders naloxone from VDH.
- Expectations of school staff if naloxone is administered on school grounds, such as the development of policies and procedures.

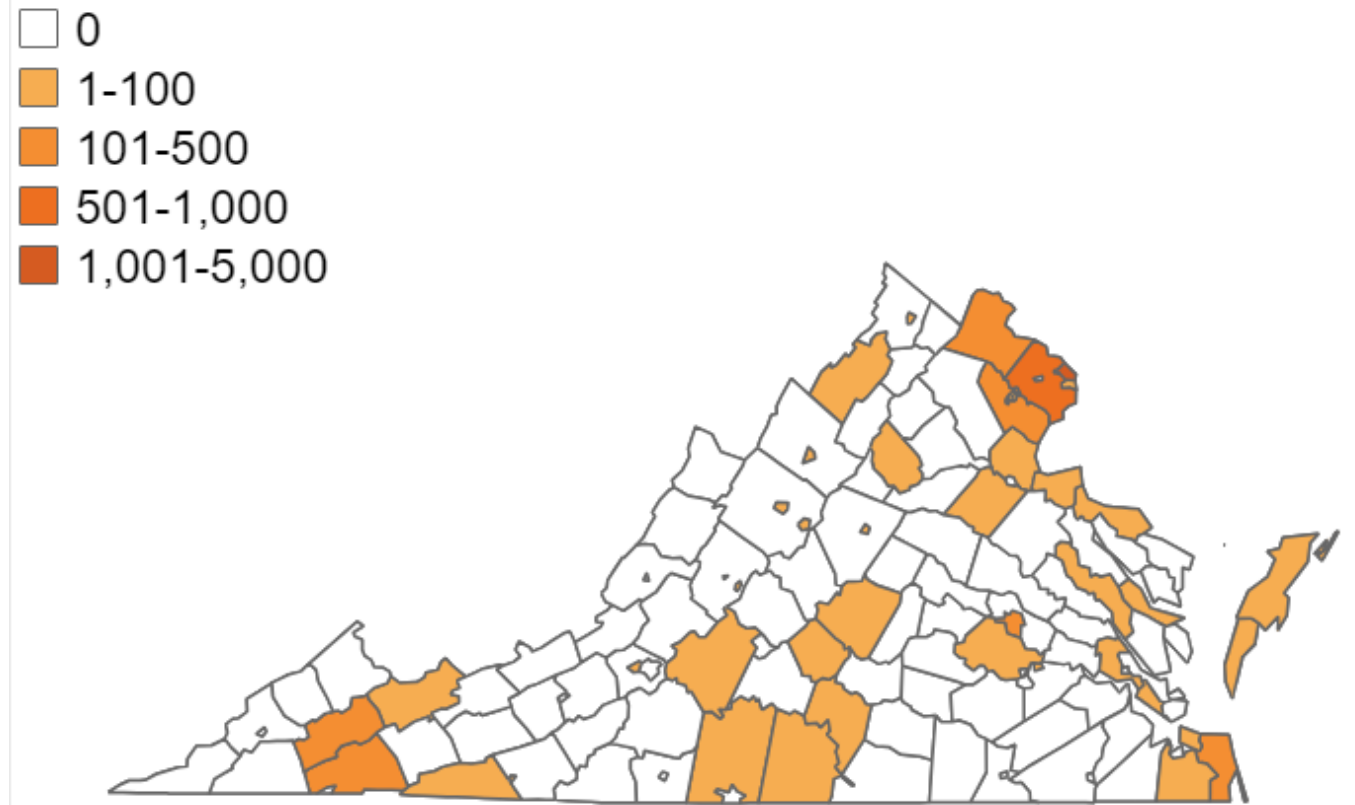
Using Naloxone to Keep Students and Staff Safe

- Public school divisions should develop policies for the possession and administration of undesignated stock naloxone to individuals on public school grounds. Schools may consider, for example, integrating naloxone into existing protocols for epinephrine and albuterol. These emergency medications are placed strategically on-site for use in emergency situations in schools, just as naloxone may be placed in schools.
- School divisions are encouraged to order what is *needed at the time*. VDH currently asks that schools request 2 kits up to a **maximum** of 10 kits (containing two 4mg nasal spray doses per kit) of naloxone **per school** within the school division.
- If any naloxone gets used, you can always order more naloxone to replace it!
- The Virginia Department of Education provides resources for school divisions developing undesignated stock naloxone policies: [School Health Guidance, Resources, & Required Training | Virginia Department of Education](#)



Naloxone Kit Distribution to K-12 Public Schools

- 61 public school divisions have active MOU agreements with VDH (as of 3/26/24)
- Since January 2023, over 5,600 naloxone kits have been shipped to these school divisions for schools to have on hand as undesignated stock.



Naloxone Kits (Counts) by Shipping Address for K-12 Public Schools (1/1/23 - 2/29/24)

Alternative Ways to Access Naloxone

- Emergent BioSolutions allows all high schools to request 2 free boxes per school (4 doses).
- Teachers and staff, and school nurses can attend a REVIVE! Training, access naloxone over-the-counter, through a local pharmacy via the standing order, or request a prescription from their health care provider if they would like to carry naloxone on their person. There may be a cost of naloxone if acquiring through a pharmacy, with or without insurance.
- OTC Narcan® can be purchased by the general public without a prescription at pharmacies and other reputable retailers.
- If your public school division has identified funding available and wishes to purchase naloxone directly from VDH, you may be eligible to obtain an at-cost MOU and purchase naloxone from VDH.



For more information, contact opioidreversal@vdh.virginia.gov.

Where Can I Learn How to Administer Naloxone to Someone Suspected of an Overdose?


- One of the best ways for the public to learn about the use of naloxone is through the REVIVE! training course. Learn more on the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) website: [REVIVE! Training](#).
- [Narcan.com](#) provides information and educational videos about how to recognize an overdose, prepare and administer naloxone nasal spray.
- The CDC has a lifesaving naloxone page with information about how to [Reverse Opioid Overdoses with Naloxone](#).
- [SBIRT Training for Nurses](#) is a 4-hour on-line training that can be accessed for \$50 by those interested in offering training to staff.

Where can I find additional Resources for K-12 schools?

Naloxone Distribution to Community Partners

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) share the common goal of increasing naloxone access for all Virginians. Due to limited resources, VDH is prioritizing high-priority individuals to receive no-cost naloxone. High priority individuals include people who use drugs (PWUD), family members, friends or coworkers of PWUD and people who work directly with PWUD. VDH continues to support individuals who may not be at highest risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose by identifying alternative avenues for naloxone access.

Authorized [comprehensive harm reduction sites](#), community services boards, local health departments, first responders (law enforcement agencies, fire service organizations, licensed emergency medical services (EMS) agencies), public schools and high priority community partners (homeless service providers, treatment and recovery centers, rehabilitation facilities, and community-based organizations that serve high-risk populations) are eligible to obtain naloxone at no-cost from VDH. Eligibility criteria are subject to change.

All naloxone nasal spray, including brand Narcan, that has been distributed by the Virginia Department of Health is still a prescription product. If you have received no-cost naloxone from VDH, it is still required to dispense the product in accordance with the Virginia Board of Pharmacy Naloxone protocol, which includes utilizing the [Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone](#) .

Authorized Comprehensive Harm Reduction Sites, Community Service Boards and Local Health Departments	+
First Responders	+
K-12 Schools	+
High-Priority Community Partners	+

- [VDH Naloxone Distribution to Community Partners](#)
- [Naloxone Application and Order Process for Public K-12 School Divisions](#)
- [How and When to Use Naloxone for an Opioid Overdose \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Naloxone Education for School Nurses Toolkit | NASN Learning Center](#)