

Opioid Reversal Guidance Sheet for K-12 Private School Staff



What is an Opioid Reversal Agent?

- An **opioid reversal agent** is 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®.
- 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](#).
- Name-brand Narcan® and generic naloxone 4mg nasal spray recently became available to the public as over-the-counter (OTC) products. 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.
- Another opioid reversal agent is nalmefene, brand-name OPVEE®. This medication is prescription only and not available through VDH currently.

How Can My Private School Access Naloxone?

The [statewide standing order](#) issued by the Commissioner of Health authorizes school nurses and other school board employees or individuals contracted by a school board to provide school health services to possess and administer naloxone to an individual. Private schools may consider having naloxone accessible on-site in an appropriate location, such as the nurse's office, for use in emergency situations. Private schools have multiple ways to access naloxone:

1. OTC naloxone can be purchased by the general public without a prescription at pharmacies and other reputable retailers.
2. Teachers, staff and school nurses can purchase OTC naloxone, access naloxone through a local pharmacy via the standing order or can request a prescription from their health care provider if they would like to carry naloxone on their person. School staff should check with school leadership about policies and procedures specific to their school.
3. Emergent BioSolutions allows private high schools to [request 2 free naloxone kits per school \(4 doses\)](#).

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

- One of the best ways 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](#).
- [Screening, Brief Interventions, and Referral to Treatment \(SBIRT\) Training for Nurses](#) is a 4-hour on-line training that can be accessed for \$50 by those interested in offering training to staff.

How Do I Document the Use of Naloxone in the School Setting?

- Private schools should develop policies for the possession and administration of naloxone to individuals on school grounds.