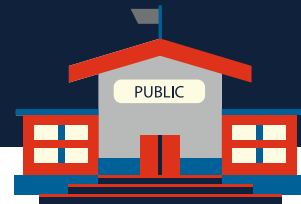


Opioid Reversal Guidance Sheet for K-12 Public School Staff



What is an Opioid Reversal Agent?

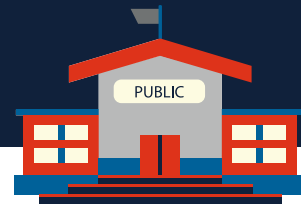
- An opioid reversal agent is a medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Examples of opioids include oxycodone, fentanyl, and heroin. Opioid reversal agents work by binding to opioid receptors in the body, rapidly displacing any opioid drug bound to these receptors and reversing 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 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 4mg nasal spray is currently available to eligible entities through VDH Division of Pharmacy (DPS) as an OTC product.
- 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 Public School Division 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. Schools have multiple ways to access naloxone:

1. **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 school board or local school level, may order no-cost naloxone through the order form found on the same webpage.
 - a. Public school divisions should coordinate with each school in their division to ensure naloxone is available and accessible. School divisions should consider the following when working with their schools to ensure access to naloxone:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Communication regarding the mechanism by which the individual school requests naloxone, i.e., clarifying whether the school district orders or the individual school orders naloxone from VDH.
 - iii. Development of policies and procedures that include expectations of school staff if naloxone is administered on school grounds
 - b. Public schools 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 should not be dispensed to the staff or student population.
 - c. VDH currently has the resources to support a maximum of 10 kits (containing two 4mg nasal spray doses per kit) of naloxone per school within the school division at one time. School divisions may determine the placement of kits; for example, school divisions may wish to maintain fewer kits in elementary schools or may wish to place kits in non-school locations like school buses. VDH will replace naloxone that is used or expired, but in general, cannot support requests above 10 kits per school.

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2. Emergent BioSolutions allows all high schools to [request 2 free boxes per school \(4 doses\)](#).
3. OTC naloxone can be purchased by the general public without a prescription at pharmacies and other reputable retailers.
4. Teachers, staff, and school nurses can purchase OTC naloxone, access prescription product 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. School staff should check with school leadership about policies and procedures specific to their school division.
5. 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](#).
- [Narcans.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?

- Public schools should develop policies for the possession and administration of undesignated stock naloxone to individuals on public school grounds. 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](#).