

Naloxone Frequently Asked Questions for Community Partners

Last Updated 3/29/2023

1. Where can I find the naloxone dispensing protocol? Where can I direct people who request information about obtaining naloxone in Virginia?

- [Virginia Board of Pharmacy Naloxone Protocols](#) provides information in detail on dispensing naloxone including required recordkeeping, labeling, storage, etc.
- [VDH Naloxone External Website](#) provides the current Commissioner's Statewide Standing Order, information on the distribution of no-cost naloxone, and other FAQs for the general public/schools

2. What is the difference between dispensing, distributing, and delivering naloxone?

VDH handles naloxone in three different ways: by dispensing, delivering, and distributing.

Dispensing: occurs when a nurse practitioner, physician, pharmacist, or Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)-approved REVIVE! Trainer provides naloxone to an individual person pursuant to a standing order from a clinician. Dispensed medication should be appropriately labeled in accordance with the Virginia Board of Pharmacy Naloxone Protocol..

Distributing: occurs when VDH Division of Pharmacy Services (DPS) provides undesignated naloxone (typically in bulk) to other traditional governmental entities (e.g., emergency medical services or law enforcement) who are obtaining to administer or dispense. Community partners are **not** allowed to distribute per Board of Pharmacy regulations.

Delivering: occurs when non-prescribers physically provide already dispensed and labeled naloxone to a person authorized to pick-up.

3. Narcan is approved for over-the-counter use. Does it still need to be dispensed in accordance with the Virginia Board of Pharmacy Protocol?

OTC products are labeled differently than prescription products and Narcan OTC is not yet available from the manufacturer due to required label modifications. All no-cost naloxone distributed from the VDH is the prescription product which requires proper labeling prior to dispensing the product to an individual. VDH will share more information as it becomes available.

4. How is VDH providing the naloxone at “no cost”?

VDH is able to purchase naloxone through state and federal funding in order to provide naloxone at no-cost to individuals, aimed at those at the higher risk of an opioid overdose.

5. What entities are eligible for no-cost naloxone distributed through VDH DPS?

No-cost naloxone may be distributed by VDH DPS to LHDs and the following entities after a signed agreement is obtained:

- Community Service Boards
- Law enforcement agencies and fire service organizations
- Licensed medical services (EMS) agencies
- Public Schools

- Comprehensive Harm Reduction sites who are enrolled in the [VDH Comprehensive Harm Reduction Partner Program \(CHRPP\)](#)
- Naloxone Partners

(Note: Local Health Departments are **not** allowed to distribute per Board of Pharmacy regulations.)

6. How can eligible entities obtain Naloxone?

For more information, our website is <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/naloxone/>. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide to other organizations outside of these entities due to restrictions in the terms and conditions for procurement.

7. I have naloxone with short dating or expired that has not been dispensed. What should I do?

To prevent waste and ensure that you have the best dating, only order what is desired for a month supply and order as frequently as needed. Contact VDH DPS at pharmacyvisions@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-786-4326 for questions about turning in or exchanging any current supply for better dating. Health departments can handle the return of naloxone just as they do any other bulk medication (adjusting down in Web Vision and returning with bulk clinic meds). For the other entities that receive naloxone directly from DPS, there is a return form with instructions at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/naloxone/narcan-return/>.

8. Will VDH provide naloxone to law enforcement agencies?

Yes. Law enforcement agencies should be directed to the Naloxone request form available at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/naloxone/>. Once the form is completed by the law enforcement agency, VDH DPS will enter into an Agreement with the agency. A fully-executed agreement must be on file with the organization before VDH DPS can provide no cost naloxone. An Agreement between the local health district and the law enforcement agency is no longer required.

9. Can naloxone be dispensed to a minor?

Yes, naloxone is FDA approved for children and adults. For local health districts, parental consent should be obtained prior to dispensing for anyone under 18 years old. Other entities providing naloxone would have to determine their guidance on dispensing it to minors and consult with their legal department.

10. What is the process for Community Partners to order Naloxone?

The procedure to order naloxone has been streamlined into one ordering process for all stakeholders. All naloxone orders will be collected through a REDCap survey on the VDH naloxone website.

- Navigate to the [VDH Naloxone](#) website
 - URL: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/naloxone/>
- Select the [Naloxone Order](#) widget
- Complete the survey in its entirety

11. Who is authorized to dispense naloxone pursuant to the statewide standing order for naloxone?

The following individuals who have completed a training program in accordance with policies and procedures of their employer or governing entity:

- Law enforcement officers as defined in 9.1-101,

- Employees of the Department of Forensic Science,
- Employees of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner,
- Employees of the Office of General Services Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services,
- Employees of the Department of Corrections designated as probation and parole officers or as correctional officers as defined in 53.1-1,
- Employees of regional jails,
- School nurses,
- Other school board employees or individuals contracted by a school board to provide school health services,
- Firefighters,
- Employees of local health departments and contractors or Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, acting on behalf of the local health department,
- Employees of local community services boards,
- Persons acting on behalf of a harm reduction site approved by the Department of Health, and
- Individuals acting on behalf of the American Red Cross of Virginia as a Disaster Health Services volunteer.

Additionally, the following individuals may dispense naloxone to a person to administer to another person believed to be experiencing or about to experience life-threatening opioid overdose and shall follow Board of Pharmacy protocol when dispensing naloxone as authorized in 54.1-3408 (X) and (Y):

- Pharmacists who maintain a current active license practicing in a pharmacy located in Virginia that maintains a current active pharmacy permit, and
- Emergency medical services personnel as defined in 32.1-111.1

12. What training opportunities are available?

- **Prepare and Administer Naloxone Nasal Spray:** The link (<https://www.narcan.com/>) provides some information on naloxone nasal spray but there are additional videos available.
- **SBIRT Training for Nurses:** The 4-hour on-line training for \$50 can be accessed at <https://www.sbirtraining.com/SBIRT-Core> for those interested in offering training to staff.
- **REVIVE! Training:** REVIVE! training allows a person to be a lay rescuer by teaching them how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and how to administer naloxone. A “train the trainer” program is also available that allows individuals to train others on the REVIVE! program to become a lay rescuer. REVIVE! Training dates and locations are posted on the [DBHDS website](#). Many local health districts have staff who have completed the REVIVE! train-the-trainer program. You can also contact your local CSB to see if they can provide this training. There is also a REVIVE! Training through the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) provides for REVIVE! Training for First Responders, which includes Law Enforcement, EMS, and the Fire Department. VACP REVIVE! Training for First Responders contact is Stephanie Diaz at stephanie@vachiefs.org.

13. How do I obtain Naloxone training devices?

Training devices for NARCAN® are available through Emergent BioSolutions by contacting Travis Montera, Director Community Health Solutions, NC/SC/VA/DC Region at monterat@ebsi.com. Alternatively, sites may contact DPS (pharmacyvisions@vdh.virginia.gov) who can provide if we have some in stock and/or will make requests to Emergent BioSolutions.

14. How can I get in-touch with a REVIVE! Trainer or get more information regarding REVIVE!?

Please visit the REVIVE! website or contact Tiana Vazquez, DBHDS REVIVE! Administrative Support Specialist, at Tiana.Vazquez@dbhds.virginia.gov.

15. Should laypersons who administer naloxone be encouraged to report it?

Yes, DBHDS has an anonymous online survey available for lay rescuers to report administration of naloxone. The survey is completely anonymous and is only shared in aggregate form. Please encourage lay persons who administer naloxone to use this link to complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/REVIVEVA>.

16. Where can I direct people for resources for care in my community?

Virginia's CSBs are the primary point of entry into the Commonwealth's public behavioral health and developmental services system. CSBs provide prevention and treatment services for mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities for adults and children. Every county and city in the state has an assigned CSB. To locate the CSB nearest to you, [click here](#). You can also visit the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) treatment locator [website](#).

On that page, you can search for providers by zip code. Additionally, Medicaid providers are available at <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/for-members/find-a-provider/>.

17. How should naloxone nasal spray be stored?

Naloxone should be stored at room temperature between 59°F to 77°F (15°C to 25°C). Naloxone Nasal Spray has stability data to support storage for short periods up to 104°F (40°C). Do not freeze naloxone. Keep naloxone in its box until ready to use. Protect from light.

18. What are the procedures for a school to obtain naloxone?

The General Assembly passed HB 2318 (McGuire) effective July 1, 2019, to amend the language of [§ 54.1-3408.X](#) to add “*school nurses, local health department employees that are assigned to a public school pursuant to an agreement between the local health department and the school board, [and] other school board employees or individuals contracted by a school board to provide school health services*” to the list of individuals who may possess and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonist used for overdose reversal, provided that they have completed the necessary training program. A Controlled Substances Registration (CSR) for naloxone is no longer required.

In order to possess or administer naloxone in the school setting, local school boards must develop and implement policies and procedures for the administration of naloxone in schools and ensure the training of relevant school personnel, pursuant to [§ 54.1-3408.X](#).

The statewide standing order issued by the Commissioner of Health covers school nurses and other school board employees or individuals contracted by a school board to provide school health services. Schools can obtain naloxone at no-cost through VDH DPS by completing the request process at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/naloxone/>.

Schools should document training of school personnel on an annual basis and provide the information upon request to VDH. For further information, schools may contact Tracy White (Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov) or Joanna Pitts (Joanna.Pitts@vdh.virginia.gov).

