carrynaloxONe

GET READY. GET TRAINED. SAVE LIVES.

Local Substance Use Trends, and Responding to an Opioid Overdose

Ontario Naloxone Distribution Programs







Agenda

- COVID-19 and the current local substance use situation
- 2. Naloxone training
- 3. Overdose prevention tips
- 4. Your agency's role
- 5. Additional information







1. COVID-19 and the current local substance use situation





Opioid-related deaths in the Nipissing and Parry Sound districts

- Our Health Unit region currently has the 5th highest opioid-related death rate in Ontario
 - 2018 14 opioid-related deaths
 - 2019 19 opioid-related deaths
 - 2020 51 opioid-related deaths*

51
opioid-related
deaths
Jan. – Dec.
2020





Opioid-related deaths in the Nipissing and Parry Sound districts

- Health Unit region has seen an increase in opioid-related deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Pre-pandemic deaths 14 (10.8 opioid-related deaths per 100,000 individuals)
 - Pandemic deaths 47 (36.4 opioid-related deaths per 100,000 individuals)*

Pre-pandemic cohort – March 16 to December 31, 2019

Pandemic cohort – March 16 to December 31, 2020





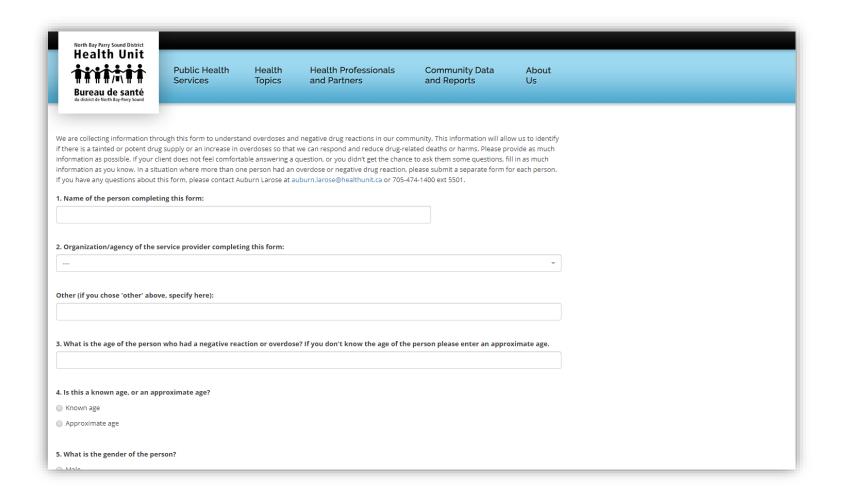
Why are we seeing an increase in overdoses and deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- There are many reasons why individuals who use substances might be at greater risk of overdose and/or death during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include (but are not limited to):
 - Scarcer market
 - Toxic market
 - Substitution with other substances
 - Increase and/or loss of income
 - Closures and/or changes in services (including limited intake at services)
 - Increase in using alone and social isolation





Nipissing and Parry Sound District Overdose Reporting System







2. Naloxone training





What is an overdose?

- An overdose happens when a person takes an amount of a substance, a potent substance or combination of substances, that is more than their body can handle
- As a result, the central nervous system is not able to control basic life functions, like breathing or body temperature, and a person may lose consciousness
- People new to taking substances and people experienced with taking substances can overdose





What are opioids?

- Opioids are depressants or "downers"
 - Slow body functions down
- Opioids include:
 - Medications prescribed by doctors
 - Unregulated substances that can be purchased illegally
- Opioids can be used to treat pain or used to get high
- Each opioid varies in half-life as well as strength/potency
- Examples of opioids:
 - Codeine (Tylenol #1, #2, #3)
 - Oxycodone (Percocet, OxyNEO)
 - Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
 - Meperidine (Demerol)
 - Methadone
 - Fentanyl (and analogues including Carfentanil)
 - Heroin







Opioid overdose signs and symptoms

- Cannot be woken up
- Slow, shallow or no breathing
- Choking, snoring and/or gurgling sounds
- Blue or purple fingernails and/or lips
- Pupils are tiny (i.e., pin-point pupils) and/or eyes are rolled back
- Limp body
- Cold skin







What is naloxone?

- Naloxone is a non-addictive, non-psychoactive drug that blocks the effects of opioids on the body
 - Does not create a "high"
- Temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose
 - Works in less than 5 minutes (usually 2-3 minutes)
 - Wears off quickly (30-45 minutes)
 - There is no effect if naloxone is given to a person who has not used opioids. If unsure, administer
 - It is safe to use expired naloxone if that is all that is available (not as effective)
- Has been used by EMS routinely for over 40 years
- Two forms available in Ontario Nasal spray and injectable





Nasal spray naloxone

Nasal spray naloxone is also known by the brand name "Narcan"











Contents of a nasal spray naloxone kit

- 2 doses of nasal spray naloxone (inside a sealed package)
- 1 pair of non-latex gloves
- 1 breathing barrier
- 1 bilingual instructional insert
- 2 identifier cards (1 English & 1
 French) showing that the individual
 has received training in naloxone use,
 and the expiry date of the naloxone



Store at room temperature between 15°C to 25°C

Protect from light

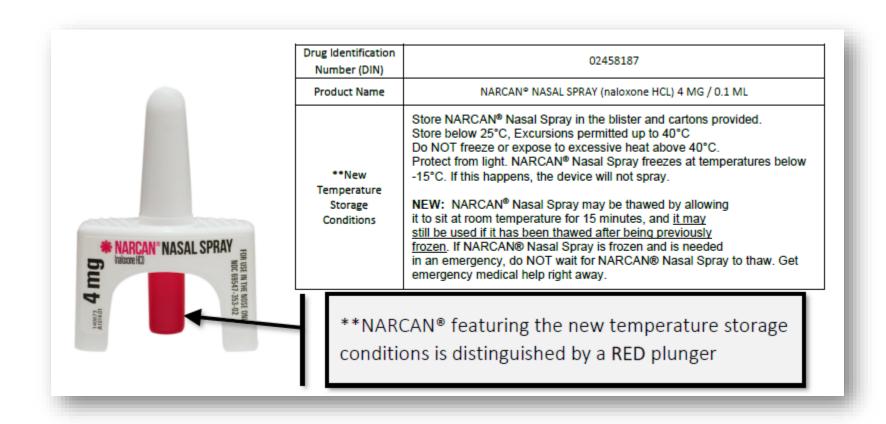
Check expiry dates

WHERE YOU STORE
YOUR KIT(S)





New nasal spray naloxone







Contents of an injectable naloxone kit

- 2 ampoules of naloxone
- 2 ampoule snappers
- 2 syringes
- 2 alcohol swabs
- 1 pair of non-latex gloves
- 1 breathing barrier
- 1 bilingual instructional insert
- 2 identifier cards (1 English & 1
 French) showing that the individual
 has received training in naloxone
 use, and the expiry date of the
 naloxone



Store at room temperature between 15°C to 30°C

Protect from light

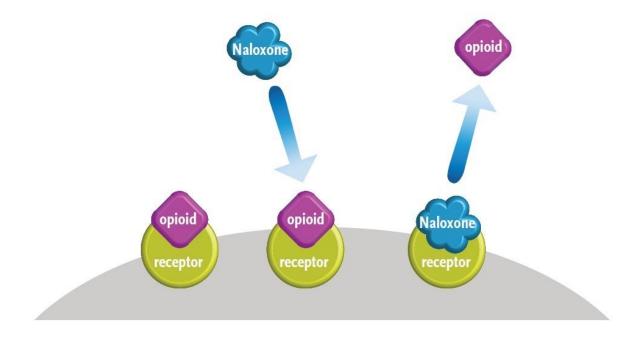
Check expiry dates

WHERE YOU STORE
YOUR KIT(S)





How naloxone works



The brain's opioid receptors have a stronger attraction for naloxone than for opioids. When naloxone is given, it displaces opioids that are attached to the receptors, reversing opioid overdose.





Naloxone safety – Allergies and pregnancy

Allergies

Allergies to naloxone are rare

Pregnancy

- There are no adequate and well-controlled studies with naloxone in pregnant women
- Administration of naloxone to an opioid-dependent pregnant woman may induce acute opioid withdrawal syndrome. This could cause pre-term labor or fetal distress
- Naloxone should be used during pregnancy, only if clearly needed

Good Samaritan Act, 2001 –
Protects individuals who
provide reasonable
assistance





Overdose response myths

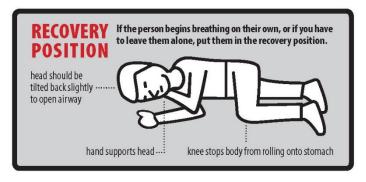
Do Not	Risk(s)
Put the individual in a bath or cold water	Individual could drown or go into shock
Induce vomiting	Could cause choking
 Inject them with anything (e.g., saltwater, cocaine, milk) other than naloxone 	Will not help and could cause more harm
Slap them too hard, kick them in the testicles or burn the bottom of their feet	Could cause serious harm
Let them sleep it off!	Person could stop breathing and die. The person may not be sleeping





5 steps to responding to an opioid overdose





SIGNS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE

- Person can't be woken up
- Breathing is slow or has stopped
- Snoring or gurgling sounds
- Fingernails and lips turn blue or purple
- Pupils are tiny or eyes are rolled back
- Body is limp

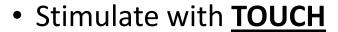




Step 1 – Shout and shake

Is the person responsive? Perhaps they are just sleeping.

- The person responding should:
 - Stimulate with **NOISE**
 - Shout their name
 - Say, "Hey, are you okay?"



- Tell the individual what you are doing before you touch them
 - "Hi... I'm just checking that you're okay."
- Shake their shoulders
- Rub your knuckles hard on their chest bone or under their nose
- Pinch their ear lobe







Are they responding?

- If the person who may have overdosed responds to stimuli, the person responding should keep an eye on them
 - Do not leave them alone in case the substances they took have not fully taken effect – they could still overdose





Step 2 - Call 911

- If the person has overdosed and/or is unconscious, the person responding should call 911
- Some dispatchers/operators will ask if you need ambulance, fire or police
- After 911 is called, the person responding should continue <u>IMMEDIATELY</u> to step 3, give naloxone, while waiting for help to arrive
- When first responders do arrive, someone at the scene should tell them as much as possible about the overdose. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - What substance(s) the person took
 - How long the person has been unconscious
 - How much naloxone has already been given, if any







Reluctance to call 911

- Many people who use substances have had bad experiences in hospitals and/or emergency departments and may be reluctant to seek medical care
- Substance use is criminalized
 - Many people who use substances have already been arrested and have had bad experiences with the police
 - They can be fearful of arrest

Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act, 2017

Under Canada's Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act, if you seek medical help for yourself or for someone else who has overdosed, neither of you will be charged for possessing or using drugs, nor will anyone else at the scene. See the other side of this card to know exactly when the Good Samaritan law will and won't protect you against charges. Police may not always know about the law's protections. If you need legal help, call 1 (800) 668-8258 (toll-free) for Legal Aid Ontario or 1 (855) 947-5255 (toll-free) for Law Society Referral Service, also online at https://lsrs.lsuc.on.ca/lsrs.



English and French versions available for download from <u>www.aidslaw.ca</u>





Step 3 – Give naloxone

- How to administer nasal spray naloxone
 - Nasal spray naloxone is administered into the nostril
 - It does not require breathing to be absorbed across the mucosal lining
 - The person responding should:
 - Put on disposable gloves and/or other personal protective equipment (PPE), if available
 - IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19
 - Lay the person who has overdosed on their back, wipe the nose clear (if necessary) and keep the head tilted backwards slightly with one hand





How to administer nasal spray naloxone



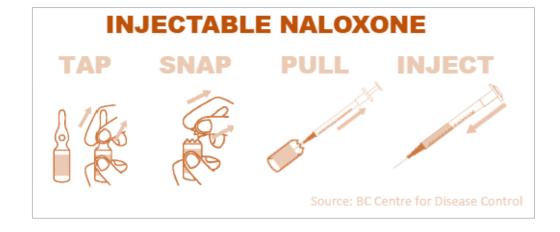
DO NOT touch the plunger until the device is in the nostril of the person has overdosed. This will help avoid accidentally triggering the spray.





How to administer injectable naloxone

- The person responding should:
 - Put on disposable gloves and/or other personal protective equipment (PPE), if available
 - IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19
 - Grasp the top (narrow end) as well as the bottom end of the ampoule with the thumb and forefinger of each hand
 - Use snapper or alcohol pad to grasp
 - Swirl or tap the ampoule so the liquid falls into bottom
 - Snap open the ampoule away from them
 - Remove a syringe from its packaging, and remove the cap
 - Insert the needle into the ampoule and pull the syringe plunger up to draw up the naloxone
 - Turn the syringe, needle pointing up, and lightly tap the syringe, then slowly push the plunger to expel air bubbles
 - A little bit of air is not harmful







How to administer injectable naloxone

- The person responding should:
 - Wipe the skin of the individual who has overdosed with an alcohol swab, if able to do so
 - Insert the needle, at a 90 degree angle, into:
 - Large muscle of the thigh
 - Upper arm (i.e., muscle below the shoulder)
 - Buttocks
 - Can inject through clothing if you need to
 - Push the plunger down, and inject all of the naloxone
 - Note the time or start a timer on a phone
 - The individual responding will want to know how long it has been in case another dose of naloxone is needed







Additional considerations for administering naloxone during COVID-19

- Naloxone is safe to give. It does not aerosolize COVID-19
- Still have concerns?
 - Use personal protective equipment (PPE), when possible
 - Other suggestions
 - The person responding should gently and loosely place a mask or cloth to cover the mouth and nose of the person who is overdosing. The mask or cloth should be removed if the individual responding has to leave the person who has overdosed alone, and/or if the person who has overdosed starts breathing again (i.e., reduce risk of choking if they vomit)
 - Another option would be to tilt the head of the person who is overdosing to the side
 - Remember: The person responding should avoid touching their face
- In many cases individuals in the public administering naloxone
 - Know the health status of the individual overdosing
 - Have already been in close contact with the individual who is overdosing
- Everyone has a choice to administer
 - Life and death situation





How to check for breathing

- If the person who has overdosed does not respond to shaking and shouting,
 the person responding should check their breathing
 - Is the chest and/or stomach of the person who is overdosing rising and falling?
 - Place the back of the hand over the mouth of the individual who is overdosing Can their breath be felt?
 - Hold the glass screen of a mobile phone over the person who is overdosing's mouth Does it fog up?
- If the person who is overdosing is breathing, the person responding should put them in the recovery position and keep monitoring them until they are more alert
 - The recovery position will keep their airway clear and open
 - It will also prevent them from choking if they vomit





If breathing -> Recovery position

RECOVERY POSITION

Figure 1: Kneel by the person. Raise the arm closest to you and place the arm out at a 90 degree angle to the body.

Figure 2: Place the other hand under their head against their cheek, to support their head.



Figure 3: Lift the leg furthest away from you and place their foot on the floor.

Figure 4: Using their knee as a lever gently pull the person onto their side, towards you.

Tilt the head back and ensure airway is open and clear.







Step 4 – Perform rescue breathing and/or chest compressions

 If the individual responding has been trained and/or are comfortable, and the person overdosing is not breathing, perform rescue breathing and/or chest compressions







If not breathing (prior to COVID-19) → Rescue breathing and/or chest compressions

Rescue breathing (30 compressions for every 2 rescue breaths)



- ✓ Head tilt
- ✓ Jaw support
- ✓ Nose pinch
- ✓ Mouth seal



✓ Check for rise and fall of chest with each breath

If not breathing (<u>during COVID-19</u>) → Chest compressions ONLY

Rescue breathing (30 compressions for every 2 rescue breaths)

Rescue breaths are **NOT** recommended during COVID-19



Chest Compressions (100-120 per minute)



- ✓ Commence compressions with the individual on a firm surface.
- ✓ Hands are positioned over middle of chest.
- ✓ Depress chest to one third depth.

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Step 5 – Is it working?

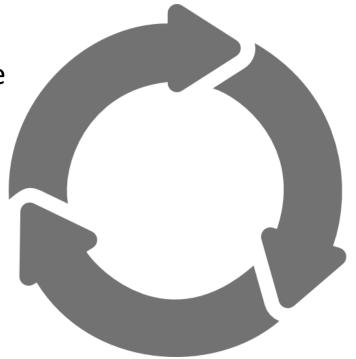
- The person responding should continue performing rescue breathing and/or chest compressions after administering naloxone, if necessary
- Naloxone usually starts working in less than 5 minutes
 - After this time, breathing should be checked again
- If the person who overdosed is not responding, the person responding should administer another dose of naloxone
 - The other nostril should be used if giving nasal spray naloxone
- The individual responding can keep repeating doses of naloxone as necessary, if they have access to additional doses
- The person who is responding should continue to provide rescue breathing and/or chest compressions until the person who overdosed becomes alert or until help arrives
- Individuals responding should monitor and prepare in case the person who overdosed loses consciousness again, as the naloxone wears off







1. Give naloxone



2. Perform rescue breathing and/or chest compressions(approximately 2-3 minutes)



- 3. Check for breathing
- Breathing → Recovery position and monitor
- Not breathing

 Give additional dose of naloxone





If naloxone is **NOT** working

- Reasons a person may not respond to naloxone:
 - There could be another serious medical issue
 - A higher dose of naloxone is needed
 - Tolerance to opioids varies from individual-to-individual
 - Each opioid varies in half-life and strength/potency
 - Some fentanyl analogues require additional doses of naloxone





If naloxone is <u>NOT</u> working

- Reasons a person may not respond to naloxone:
 - The person is under the influence of a substance other than opioids
 - Administering naloxone will not harm them
- Benzodiazepines (a.k.a. "benzos" or "pams")
 - Drugs used to treat anxiety and depression that have a sedating effect
 - Opioids are being laced and/or mixed with benzodiazepines
 - When someone experiences an opioid overdose and a benzodiazepine is involved, individuals may not regain consciousness after naloxone has been administered
 - Remember: Naloxone only works on opioids
 - More doses of naloxone should only be given if the person is not breathing
 - If the person is breathing normally but remains unconscious, the person responding should place them in the recovery position and stay with them until emergency services arrive





After an overdose

- When naloxone starts working the individual who overdosed may:
 - Wake up suddenly or slowly, and be confused
 - The person responding should take a step back
 - Experience mild to severe withdrawal symptoms
 - They may feel sick or be sweating
 - They may also throw up or soil themselves
 - The individual responding should explain that these symptoms will go away as the naloxone wears off (30-45 minutes)
 - Want to use more substances.
 - The person responding should explain that taking more of the substance will be a waste as the naloxone will block any opioids from binding to the receptors on the brain. Taking more of the substance can also further increase the risk of overdosing again





After an overdose

- Caring for the individual
 - The person responding should provide emotional support and reassurance, and explain what has happened
 - If paramedics were not called, those at the scene should suggest a trip to the hospital for further observation
- Public and personal safety
 - If nasal spray naloxone was used, the applicator should be thrown into the garbage. If injectable naloxone was used, the needle/syringe and ampoule should be disposed of in a hard-sided puncture proof container like a biohazard container or a pop bottle
 - Individuals responding to the overdose should wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer





3. Overdose prevention tips





Preventing opioid overdose

Four key principles for preventing opioid overdose you can share with clients include:

- Don't use alone
- Be aware of your tolerance
- Avoid mixing substances
- Know the quality of your substance(s)





Don't use alone

If an individual overdoses alone, no one will be able to help them.

- Fix with a friend
- Call someone to let them know you are about to use
- Set-up a call or text check-in
- Leave your door unlocked
- Use the overdose prevention line







Be aware of your tolerance

A person's ability to withstand the effects of a substance

- Develops over time
- Can be affected by age, weight, health, stress and/or situation
- Can rapidly decrease when an individual has taken a break from using either street or prescription substances

- Use less substances
- Try a small dose of the substance to start (i.e., start slow)
- Use by snorting or swallowing instead of injecting





Avoid mixing substances

Many overdose deaths occur when multiple and different types of substances have been taken.

- Avoid mixing substances
 - Especially depressants like benzodiazepines, other opioids and alcohol
- Try to use only one substance at a time
- If you are mixing, use less of each substance





Know the quality of your substance(s)

The quality of substances is unpredictable. Illegal substances are unregulated; therefore, their purity and strength can be different with each batch, even from the same dealer.

- Know your dealer Try to stick to the same source
 - Ask if they have a new supply
 - Ask others if they have tried a particular batch
- Does the substance look, smell or taste different?
- Access drug checking kits or services if you are able
- Try a small dose of the substance to start (i.e., start slow)





Additional tips to consider for preventing an opioid overdose

- Additional tips for preventing opioid overdose you can share with clients include:
 - Avoid taking unknown substances or switching substances, where possible
 - Use substances in a familiar setting
 - Pick-up or get naloxone replaced, as needed





4. Your agency's role





Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP)

- Ministry funded
- Provides naloxone free-of-charge to select individuals in Ontario
- Who can you distribute naloxone to under the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP)?
 - Individuals at-risk of opioid overdose
 - Family members or friends of individuals at-risk of opioid overdose
- At the end of the training, we will discuss where individuals who do not meet this criteria can get a naloxone kit





What is your role under the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP)?

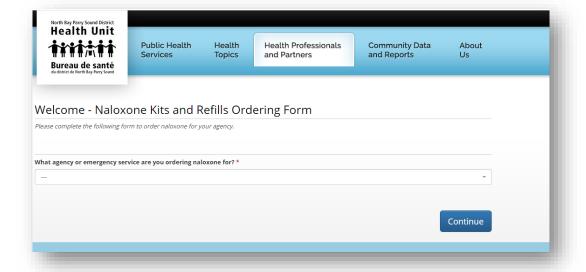
- Ensure staff are trained in naloxone
- Ensure staff are comfortable and have the resources to train clients to use naloxone
 - ONP agencies: www.myhealthunit.ca/naloxonepartner
 - General information: www.myhealthunit.ca/naloxone
- Order naloxone, as needed
- Store naloxone in a safe place
- Provide quarterly reports to the Health Unit
- Attend Naloxone Community of Practice meetings, where possible





Ordering naloxone

- Naloxone orders can be submitted at: <a href="https://forms.myhealthunit.ca/Naloxone-Ordering-Form/Naloxone-Order-Ord
- Your agency can order:
 - Nasal spray naloxone kits
 - Nasal spray naloxone refills (just the replacement medication)
 - Injectable naloxone kits
- Naloxone orders can be placed at any time and typically take 1-3 days to get ready
- When your order is ready for pick-up someone will connect with contact you
- Orders can be picked-up at the Health Unit
 - North Bay (345 Oak Street West)
 - Parry Sound (70 Joseph Street)

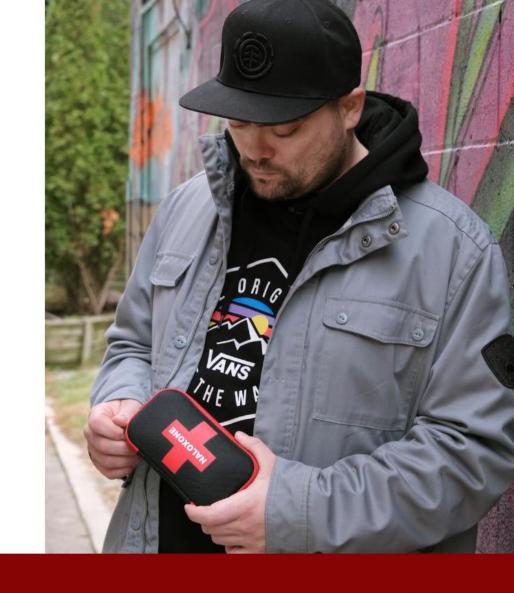






How do I order naloxone?

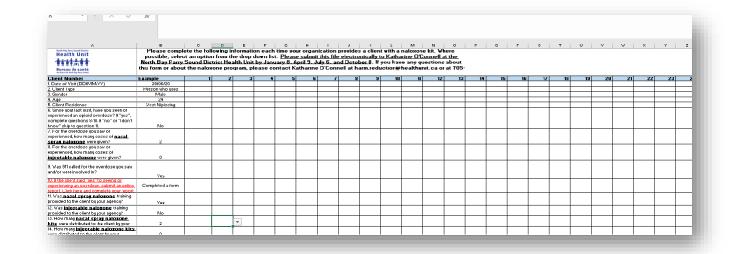
This instructional video is for agencies and first responders in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit region who have been on-boarded under the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP).





Reporting naloxone distribution – Naloxone distributing agencies

- Naloxone reporting quarters:
 - Q1 April to June
 - Q2 July to September
 - Q3 October to December
 - Q4 January to March
- Ensure that each quarterly report only includes dates for the specified reporting period
- Enter all client and overdose-related information into the reporting form
- Complete the online overdose reporting form, if an overdose is reported, and there is time to do so
 - https://forms.myhealthunit.ca/Reporting-Forms/Overdose-Reporting-Form
- The Health Unit will send a reminder email about reporting at the end of the quarter/beginning of the next quarter





How do I complete naloxone reporting?

This instructional video is for agencies in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit region who have been on-boarded under the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP).





5. Additional information





Naloxone window decal

- Available in English and French
- Similar to an AED window decal
- Creates awareness of where naloxone can be found/located
- Reduces stigma
 - Creates a welcoming environment
- **Future:** Map all locations that have naloxone on-site







Developing a workplace policy and guidelines

- General information on naloxone
- Training requirements and materials
- Personnel permitted to be trained and/or respond to an overdose (incl. roles and responsibilities)
- How to respond to an overdose
- Reporting an incident
 - Internal
 - External
- Debriefing and self-care
- Storage of naloxone on-site
- Where to pick-up additional naloxone





We can support you with this!

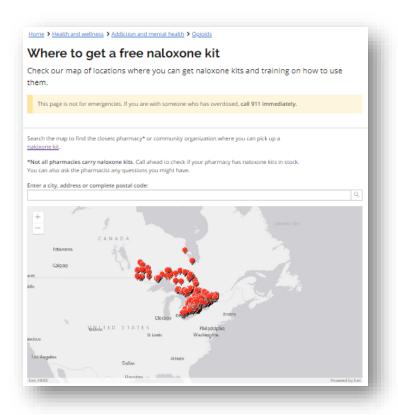


Where to get a naloxone kit for individual or workplace use

Find free naloxone kit locations:

www.ontario.ca/page/get-naloxone-kits-free

Call **1-866-532-3161** Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.







Remember....

- Store naloxone at room temperature and away from light
- Check the expiry date on your naloxone regularly
- Contact the Health Unit if your agency would like assistance developing a naloxone policy/guidelines or if you would like to obtain a naloxone window decal
- Remind clients to carry their naloxone kit with them at all times
 - Encourage clients to let others know where they store naloxone
- Encourage other people to carry naloxone
 - Naloxone Locator: <u>www.ontario.ca/page/get-naloxone-kits-free</u>
 - Call: 1-866-532-3161 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Encourage clients to report naloxone use and get their naloxone kit replaced
- Provide support if a client has been involved in an overdose





Questions?

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