

Administrative Procedure 164

NALOXONE IN SCHOOLS

Background

There has been a substantial increase in deaths in Canada related to the misuse of opioids such as fentanyl. In response to this crisis, the Division has made Naloxone kits available at our schools where appropriate training has been provided.

Purpose

The Division is committed to promoting a safe and healthy workplace through a Comprehensive School Health model. This is an emergency response procedure if an individual experiences an opioid-related poisoning on Board property.

Definitions & Understandings

Naloxone

Life-saving medication that blocks or reverses the effects of opioid medication. It is used to treat narcotic poisoning in an emergency. Naloxone may be administered by intramuscular injection or nasal spray.

Approved Training

Training must be provided by an approved first aid or emergency response training facility such as St. John Ambulance, Red Cross, Alberta Health Services, or a community harm reduction organization.

Authorized User

Any person who has received BGSD-approved training according to OH&S guidelines for the administration of Naloxone.

Liability

A person who provides assistance to a person who has experienced an opioid-related poisoning is protected under the Alberta Emergency Medical Aid Act (commonly known as the Good Samaritan Act). ARMIC has coverage for Incidental Medical Malpractice within the CGL policy.

Procedures

1. Training:
 - 1.1. Before Naloxone kits are placed at the school, the principal will ensure that a staff member has received appropriate training. Training will occur on a volunteer basis.
 - 1.2. Training must be taken according to OH&S guidelines. The Employee must submit certificates of completion to the principal.
 - 1.3. A record of authorized users will be placed at the storage site and posted in a common staff gathering area (i.e., staff room).

- 1.4. The Principal is responsible for ensuring that a list of authorized users is maintained at their school, along with the location of the Naloxone.
- 1.5. The principal will provide the BGSD OH&S Advisor with the documentation showing course completion and request a Naloxone kit for the school if one is not already on-site.
- 1.6. Nasal Naloxone kits require hazard awareness notification.

2. Location and Storage

- 2.1. Each site will be responsible for determining the optimal storage location for its site.
- 2.2. The following will be considered prior to placement:
 - 2.2.1. Response Time – Retrieving the Naloxone in a timely manner is important. Authorized users must have access to the medication during an emergency.
 - 2.2.2. Naloxone will be stored in a secure location that prevents tampering, theft, and/or misuse, and restricts access by unauthorized individuals.
 - 2.2.3. Naloxone storage will be clearly marked, unobstructed, and readily accessible for emergency situations.

3. Maintenance

- 3.1. Naloxone Kits will be inspected and updated by the BGSD OH&S Advisor. Records of inspection will be kept by the BGSD OH&S Advisor.
- 3.2. Ordering of replacement kits will be done by the BGSD OH&S Advisor.
- 3.3. If the Naloxone has been removed from the schools for any reason, the Principal will advise the BGSD OH&S Advisor of its removal.

4. Incident Review

- 4.1. All staff will continue to use 9-1-1 as their response to all medical crises, including a potential drug overdose.
- 4.2. When Naloxone is administered for a suspected opioid poisoning, the Principal shall notify the Action EOC.
- 4.3. A write-up of the incident must be completed within 24 hours of the occurrence, which will include all details of the incident and any witness statements. When appropriate, an online Student Accident Report or Employee Accident Report shall be utilized.
- 4.4. All incidents will be investigated by the Division OH&S Advisor in accordance with Occupational Health and Safety practices.

5. Naloxone in the school

- 5.1. Each school principal shall decide if Naloxone is right for their school.
- 5.2. Schools shall cover associated costs.

Reference: Provincial Ministerial Order 702/2023- M.O. 702/2023
OH&S Act: Part 1 General Obligations: Sections 3, 4, 5
OH&S Code: Part 11 First Aid: Sections 179, 181(1)(2)
Education Act: Sections 11, 52, 53, 197, 222
Emergency Medical Act: Section 2b
St. John Ambulance: <https://sja.ca/en/first-aid-training>
Canadian Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification>
Alberta Health Services bulletins:
Drug Safe
Teachers & Schools - Addiction & Mental Health
Community Based Naloxone Program - Harm Reduction Services
Alberta Occupational Health and Safety
Bulletin - Workers Administering Injectable Naloxone
Fact Sheet - Naloxone in the Workplace