

SD42 PROCEDURE: 9410.1

OPIOID RESPONSE PROCEDURE

GENERAL

This procedure provides guidelines for responding to opioid overdoses in schools, including instructions for safely administering naloxone. It incorporates safe work practices and safety protocols in accordance with WorkSafe BC and the Opioid Overdose Response Procedure.

This plan applies to all staff who may be required to respond to an opioid overdose at school or on school property. It covers the identification of opioid overdose symptoms, safe naloxone administration, and post-response documentation.

DEFINITIONS

- **“Naloxone”** A medication that reverses opioid overdose by blocking the effects of opioids such as fentanyl, heroin, and morphine. It is safe to administer, even in the absence of opioids, and does not cause harm to a person who has not overdosed on opioids.
- **“Opioid”** A class of drugs that includes morphine, heroin, oxycodone, fentanyl, methadone, and others.
- **“Opioid Overdose”** A life-threatening condition caused by taking too much of an opioid. Symptoms can include severe sleepiness, slow or shallow breathing, and unconsciousness, which may lead to death without intervention.

OVERDOSE RESPONSE: ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Signs of Opioid Overdose:

Staff should immediately identify these signs to assess if someone is experiencing an opioid overdose:

- Severe sleepiness or unconsciousness
- Slow or irregular heartbeat
- Trouble breathing (e.g., slow, shallow, or snoring)
- Cold, clammy skin

Immediate Action:

1. *Call 911:* As soon as an opioid overdose is suspected, immediately call 911. Provide detailed information, including the possibility of an opioid overdose and the location of the individual.
2. *Administer Naloxone:* If staff member is comfortable with administering naloxone, proceed with the following steps (ensure gloves are worn for protection):
 - Retrieve naloxone from the school office or the designated location.
 - Follow the instructions on the naloxone kit for proper administration. Naloxone can be administered intranasally or intramuscularly, depending on the kit provided.
 - If unsure: Administer the naloxone even if uncertain about whether the person has taken opioids.

Safety Considerations for Staff:

- *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):* Gloves are included in the naloxone kit. Staff must wear gloves when administering naloxone to avoid contact with bodily fluids or potential drug residue.

- *Dealing with Drugs or Paraphernalia:* Drugs or paraphernalia at the scene should be handled with extreme caution. Avoid direct contact, and do not attempt to remove or move them without appropriate protective equipment.
- *Aggressive Behavior:* Naloxone can rapidly reverse opioid overdose, potentially causing the individual to become agitated or confused. Be prepared for possible aggressive or violent behavior.
 - *Stay Calm and De-escalate:* If the individual is revived and becomes hostile, seek to de-escalate the situation. Move to a safe distance, remain calm, and call for assistance if necessary.

Naloxone Kit Supplies & Location:

- Naloxone kits should be stored in a readily accessible location, typically in the office or a designated emergency area, for easy access in case of an emergency.
- Two naloxone kits will be provided at each school, and staff should ensure they are fully stocked and up to date.
- *Procurement:* The district will centrally manage the procurement of naloxone. The kits will be ordered three months prior to the expiration date and distributed to schools, ensuring that the expired or unused naloxone is disposed of at a local pharmacy.

OVERDOSE RESPONSE: OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY

- *Staff Safety:* Staff are not required to leave school property to respond to an overdose that occurs off-site.
- *Action for Off-Site Overdose:* In the event of an opioid overdose off school property, staff should immediately call 911 to report the situation, provide necessary information, and await emergency assistance.

Overdose Response Documentation

- *Immediate Reporting:* Any staff member who administers naloxone must immediately report the event to the school administrator, including a detailed written summary of the incident (time, actions taken, individual affected, and the response).
- *Confidentiality:* If the individual affected is a student, the report will be kept confidential and separate from the student's official school file.
- *School Administrator's Role:*
 - The school administrator will report the event to the Superintendent (or designate).
 - The administrator will complete a BC Schools Protection Program (SPP) report.

SAFE WORK INSTRUCTIONS FOR STAFF ADMINISTERING NALOXONE

Step-by-Step Guidelines:

1. Ensure Personal Safety:
 - Wear gloves provided in the naloxone kit.
 - Ensure the scene is safe before approaching the individual.
2. Assess the Individual:
 - Check for signs of opioid overdose: severe sleepiness, shallow or slow breathing, and unconsciousness.
 - If symptoms are present, **call 911 immediately.**
3. Administer Naloxone:
 - Follow the instructions in the naloxone kit. If intranasal naloxone is provided, spray into one nostril. If intramuscular naloxone is provided, inject into the outer thigh.
4. Monitor and Wait for Response:
 - After administering naloxone, monitor the individual. If there is no improvement in 2-3 minutes, administer a second dose (if available).

- Continue to monitor their breathing and ensure the area is safe.
5. Seek Assistance:
- If the person revives and becomes agitated or violent, stay back, de-escalate the situation, and wait for additional support from emergency personnel.

Instructions for Staff Exposure to Blood or Bodily Fluids

If a staff member is exposed to blood or bodily fluids during an opioid overdose response (whether while administering naloxone, providing first aid, or handling potentially contaminated items), it is critical to follow strict protocols to minimize health risks. These guidelines are designed to protect staff and ensure that exposure does not lead to the transmission of infections or other health issues.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

To prevent exposure to blood or bodily fluids during an opioid overdose response, staff must use the following PPE, which should be included in the naloxone kit:

- *Gloves*: Always wear disposable gloves when administering naloxone, handling the individual, or touching any contaminated items (e.g., needles, drug paraphernalia, or personal items with potential contamination).
- *Face Shield/Mask*: If there is a risk of splashing bodily fluids (e.g., blood or vomit), staff should wear a face shield or mask with a face shield to protect their eyes, mouth, and nose.

Steps to Take If Exposed to Blood or Bodily Fluids

In case of accidental exposure to blood or bodily fluids, it is essential to act quickly to minimize risk. Follow these steps:

1. Remove Contaminated PPE:
 - Remove gloves and other PPE immediately after exposure. Avoid touching the outside of gloves or the contaminated side of the face shield or mask.
 - Dispose of all contaminated PPE in a sealed, biohazard bag or appropriate waste container.
2. Wash Exposed Areas:
 - If blood or bodily fluids come into contact with skin (e.g., a splash on hands, arms, or face), immediately wash the exposed area with soap and water.
 - If the exposure is to the eyes, rinse with clean water or saline solution for at least 15 minutes.
3. Report the Exposure:
 - Immediately inform the school administrator or supervisor about the exposure, even if the exposure seems minor.
 - Document the exposure by completing an incident report, which should include the nature of the exposure, how it occurred, and the actions taken afterward.
4. Seek Medical Evaluation:
 - If the exposure is significant (e.g., a needle stick, a deep puncture wound, or if bodily fluids come into contact with broken skin), seek medical attention immediately.
 - Contact your healthcare provider or go to the nearest emergency department for an evaluation, including any necessary post-exposure treatments, such as the administration of vaccines (e.g., Hepatitis B) or antiretroviral medications (in cases of potential HIV exposure).
5. Follow WorkSafe BC Protocols:
 - According to WorkSafe BC, any staff member exposed to blood or bodily fluids in the workplace must follow the Exposure Control Plan. This plan outlines specific procedures for responding to incidents of potential bloodborne pathogen exposure.
 - Staff should be familiar with the WorkSafe BC First Aid regulations and report the exposure through the district's the online incident report.

6. Post-Exposure Care:

- In the case of potential exposure to bloodborne pathogens, a medical professional may recommend monitoring for symptoms of disease or offering prophylactic treatments, such as Hepatitis B immunoglobulin or post-exposure HIV prophylaxis (PEP), depending on the nature of the exposure.
- The exposed individual should undergo follow-up testing for bloodborne pathogens as advised by a healthcare professional.

DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED MATERIALS

Proper disposal of contaminated materials is critical to prevent the spread of infection or disease:

- *Needles or Sharp Objects:* If a needle or sharp object is involved (e.g., from drug paraphernalia), use a puncture-proof container (sharps container) to safely dispose of these items.
- *Contaminated Clothing:* If clothing becomes contaminated with blood or bodily fluids, it should be carefully removed and placed in a sealed plastic bag for laundering. Use appropriate disinfectant when cleaning any reusable items.
- *Waste Disposal:* All other waste (e.g., gloves, used PPE, gauze, bandages) should be disposed of in a sealed, biohazard bag. Ensure it is properly disposed of in accordance with local regulations.

Decontaminating the Area

After the incident, the area where the overdose response took place (especially if bodily fluids were involved) should be thoroughly cleaned:

- *Disinfect Surfaces:* Use an appropriate disinfectant that is effective against bloodborne pathogens (e.g., a bleach solution or EPA-approved disinfectant). Clean all surfaces where bodily fluids may have been splashed or spilled.
- *Handling Contaminated Items:* If any items like blankets, towels, or other materials were contaminated, they should be removed carefully and laundered according to guidelines or discarded.

INCIDENT REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION

In addition to reporting the exposure to the school administrator, the following documentation should be completed:

- *Online Incident Report:* A detailed account of the exposure, including time, place, and circumstances of the exposure.
- *Call WorkSafe BC:* Call WorkSafe BC dial a claim to report the exposure to ensure proper documentation of the event.

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