

Opioid Overdose Prevention Resource Guide for Public Health, Public Safety, and Other Service Providers

In the face of the ongoing opioid crisis, the New York State Department of Health aims to provide local public health, public safety, and healthcare personnel with tools and resources to address this public health need. The following are lists of recommendations and resources intended to support you in your efforts to address the opioid crisis in your community. For more information about opioids and related resources in New York State, please visit <https://www.health.ny.gov/opioids>, or contact opioidprevention@health.ny.gov.

State and Local Health Departments:

- Request [Opioid Overdose Educational Materials](#) from the NYS Department of Health at no cost to you.
- Address stigma against people who use drugs in your community by removing barriers to culturally competent care and services, and by correcting negative assumptions about people who use drugs.
- Educate community members about the serious health risks associated with opioids, including overdose, coma, and/or death, and the importance of using those medications only as prescribed.
- Learn how to become a registered [Opioid Overdose Prevention Program](#) in New York State.
- Educate community members on the ability to access naloxone at pharmacies. Over 2,800 pharmacies have standing orders in place, allowing pharmacists to dispense naloxone to individuals without having to bring in a prescription from their provider.
- Help promote the [Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program \(N-CAP\)](#). N-CAP allows individuals with prescription coverage to get naloxone at pharmacies with N-CAP covering co-payments up to \$40.
 - Individuals who are not eligible for N-CAP can continue to access naloxone through registered [Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs](#). This includes individuals who use naloxone in the *line of duty* and people who are *uninsured*.
- Share these [Facts about the 911 Good Samaritan Law](#) with your community to encourage individuals to call 911 for help in the event of a suspected overdose.

First Responders (Emergency Medical Services, Law Enforcement, Fire Departments):

- Respond to overdose calls with compassion and care, recognizing that the pervasive stigma against people who use drugs impacts their ability to seek help and make change.
- Know how to promptly identify signs and symptoms of opioid overdose, including: slow or shallow breathing, erratic or no breathing, blue or purplish-black lips or fingernails, unresponsiveness, and unconsciousness.
- Become trained to administer and carry naloxone. Be aware that more than one dose of naloxone may be required to reverse an overdose, especially if fentanyl or other synthetic opioids are present.
- Review [Opioids: First Responder Information](#) for safety tips on preventing occupational exposure.
- Be familiar with these [Facts about the 911 Good Samaritan Law](#) when responding to an overdose. This law ensures that people who overdose and those who try to save them are protected from charges relating to the use of illicit drugs. Consider the impact of your approach at an overdose event to ensure that people at risk of overdose continue to feel comfortable seeking help in the case of a medical emergency.
- If you are a participating Opioid Overdose Prevention program, remember to report all naloxone administrations to the New York State Department of Health using the [New York State Public Safety Naloxone Quality Improvement Usage Report Form](#).

Pharmacists:

- Provide compassionate, person-centered care to patients who take opioids or medication for addiction treatment.
- When appropriate, educate customers of the serious health risks associated with being prescribed opioids, including accidental overdose, coma and/or death – especially when in combination with benzodiazepines.
- Proactively offer naloxone and education about how to administer it to patients receiving syringes through the [Expanded Syringe Access Program](#) and to patients prescribed opioids.

- Ensure that naloxone (also known by the brand name, Narcan) is in stock and that a standing order is in place so individuals do not need a patient-specific prescription to obtain this life-saving drug.
 - Pharmacies participating in the NYS AIDS Drug Assistance Program are also eligible to participate in the Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program. Please see [Dispensing Naloxone Via a Non-Patient Specific Prescription](#) and [Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program \(N-CAP\)](#) for more information.
 - Participating pharmacies are encouraged to display N-CAP posters and to provide [promotional materials](#) (available at no cost to you) to customers accessing opioids and syringes.
 - To request a standing order to dispense naloxone, or if you have questions about N-CAP, please contact naloxonepharmacy@health.ny.gov or (518) 473-2300.

County Coroners/Medical Examiners:

- The Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) will allow Medical Examiners and Coroners to file Cause of Death corrections electronically. This will improve the timeliness of reporting and appropriate coding of the cause(s) of death. Please see [EDRS Information for Medical Examiners & Coroners](#) to learn more.
- Review the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials report, [Improving Drug Specificity and Completeness on Death Certificates for Overdose Deaths: Opportunities and Challenges for States](#), for guidance about entering information on the death certificate for drug overdose deaths.

Healthcare providers:

- Provide stigma-free care by withholding judgment about patients' substance use, and becoming trained in cultural competency. The NYSDOH AIDS Institute provides clinical guidelines on best practices at www.hivguidelines.org/substance-use.
- Become licensed to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder:
 - <https://pcssnow.org/education-training/mat-training/>
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/programs-campaigns/medication-assisted-treatment/training-materials-resources/buprenorphine-waiver>
- Register with NYSDOH AIDS INSTITUTE Provider Directory and the SAMSHA Treatment Practitioner Locator to allow patients to know you are authorized to prescribe buprenorphine.
 - <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstituteny.org/>
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/physician-program-data/treatment-physician-locator>
- Review these guidelines on how to prescribe buprenorphine in an accessible and culturally competent way: https://www.hivguidelines.org/substance-use/treatment-modalities/#tab_1_0.
- Contact the NYSDOH Buprenorphine Access Initiative with any questions about buprenorphine at buprenorphine@health.ny.gov.
- Contact your [local health department](#) for questions about the opioid problem in your county.

Support, Treatment, and Recovery Resources:

- Visit the New York State Department of Health website to learn about [Drug User Health](#), including helpful information and resources, such as Syringe Access Programs and Drug User Health Hubs.
 - Check this list of [NYS-Authorized Syringe Exchange Programs](#) for a program in your area to access available programming and services. This list includes operating days and times.
- Find out about new [Regional Substance Use Disorder Services](#) from the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Services available across New York State include Peer Engagement Specialists, Family Support Navigator, Recovery Centers, Youth Clubhouses, and more.
 - New Yorkers and their loved ones struggling with an addiction can find help and hope 24-hours-a-day, 7-day-a-week by calling the state's toll-free HOPELine at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369), by texting HOPENY (Short Code 467369), or by visiting www.oasas.ny.gov/accesshelp.
- Search for multiple services on a user-friendly and mobile-friendly map with The Point (<http://www.thepointny.org>):
 - Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs)
 - Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP)
 - Safe Sharps Disposal

- Naloxone
 - Hepatitis C Testing
- Find licensed medical practitioners authorized to prescribe buprenorphine through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) [Buprenorphine Treatment Practitioner Locator](#).
 - Learn more about [buprenorphine](#), an option for Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder.
- Find residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment programs and services in your area using the [New York State OASAS Treatment Availability Dashboard](#).