



AP 4103 Opioid Overdose Response

Related: Interior Health Overdose Prevention & Treatment and Harm Reduction, BCCDC Towards the Heath

Date: December 15, 2025

This procedure clarifies the response to a possible opioid overdose at district schools. Under BC law, anyone may administer naloxone in an emergency situation outside of a hospital setting. This includes staff, students, parents, and volunteers. This Administrative Procedure applies to district and school staff who have been identified and trained by the district to recognize and respond to signs of student opioid overdose.

Definitions

Naloxone: An antidote to an opioid overdose. Naloxone can restore breathing following an opioid overdose and can be given by injection. Naloxone has no effect on a person if they have not taken opioids.

Opioid: A class of drug, such as morphine, heroin and codeine as well as oxycodone, methadone, and fentanyl.

Opioid Overdose: An acute life-threatening condition caused by using too much opioid. During an opioid overdose a person's breathing can slow or stop.

Procedure

1. Upon identification of opioid overdose, call 9-1-1. Naloxone administration may occur along with administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) depending on the circumstances and training/comfort level with administering naloxone.



2. Education and Training

- 2.1. Training for staff will be provided, as recommended by Interior Health, via the "Towards the Heart" online training course or other training options provided by the district.
- 2.2. For staff safety, staff will not be required to leave their school/site to respond to overdoses occurring off the school site.
- 2.3. Staff should understand that there may be some health and safety risk involved in responding to overdose. Responding to overdoses involves proper use of personal protective equipment, handling syringes, and potential contact with drugs or blood and body fluids. If drugs are on the person or the scene, they also must be handled carefully (gloves are required and located in the naloxone kit). Finally, some individuals may be angry and physically aggressive or violent upon revival via naloxone. Staff should be prepared to stand back and de-escalate these situations.

3. Overdose Documentation

- 3.1. Any staff member who responds to an overdose will report the event immediately to the principal/supervisor and provide a written summary of the events. This documentation will be kept separate from the student file.
- 3.2. The principal will report the event to the Assistant Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer and complete a *BC Schools Protection Program* (SPP) report.

4. Overdose Response Supplies

- 4.1. One (1) naloxone kit will be provided per site and should be stored with other emergency medical supplies for easy access when required, yet out of easy reach of students.



- 4.2. The principal is responsible for ordering replacement supplies, monitoring expiry dates, confirming available supplies annually, and ensuring unused medication that expires will be disposed of at a pharmacy.

5. Identification of an Overdose

- 5.1. Identification that a person is having an opioid overdose is the first and most critical step in saving a person's life. Some early signs that a person is experiencing an opioid overdose include:
 - 5.1.1. Not moving and can't be woken
 - 5.1.2. Slow or not breathing
 - 5.1.3. Blue lips and nails
 - 5.1.4. Choking, gurgling sounds, or snoring
 - 5.1.5. Cold or clammy skin
 - 5.1.6. Tiny pupils

6. Responding to an Overdose

- 6.1. The following information from the *Towards the Heart* program has been adopted as a district procedure:



SAVE ME steps



STIMULATE
Not responding?
Call 911



AIRWAY
Check and open



VENTILATE
1 breath every
5 seconds



EVALUATE
Breathing?



MEDICATION
Give 1 dose
of naloxone



EVALUATE & SUPPORT
Keep giving breaths. Give
another dose every 3 minutes
until breathing normally.

Keep giving breaths

Brain damage can occur within minutes. Naloxone will start to work in 2–5 minutes. For those trained in CPR: If a person is found not breathing and the drug poisoning not witnessed, give chest compressions too.

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CALL 911. Stay and help.
Naloxone wears off in 30-120 minutes
so a drug poisoning can return.

Canada's Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act
may protect you. More at: canada.ca/opioids

Find out where
you can get
naloxone at

**toward
THE heart.com**
BCDC HARM REDUCTION SERVICES