

CREATING A NALOXONE POLICY

The following information should be gathered when developing a policy on naloxone use in the school setting.

1. Federal/State laws that allow or prohibit the administration of stock naloxone in the school setting.
2. Local policies that allow or prohibit the use in schools and by whom.
3. School health advisor (school physician) willing to write the standing order for naloxone if required in the state.
4. State Nurse Practice Act limitations on training unlicensed personnel to administer naloxone.

Sample School District Suspected Overdose Response Policy

Students at risk for opioid overdose benefit from a school district policy that coordinates a planned response in the event of an intended or accidental emergency. The outline for a sample policy and links to policies can be found in this section. These policies relate to the care and response to a suspected opioid overdose and address the use of Naloxone/Narcan in the school setting.

State laws and Nurse Practice Acts differ from state to state. Each school district and each school nurse must ensure before enacting any policy that it is consistent with applicable state laws and regulations, including those governing delegation.

NASN recommends the following considerations for a comprehensive Naloxone school policy. School districts and schools need to prepare for school anaphylactic reactions in all children and youth, with or without a prior history of allergies.

A comprehensive school policy should address these elements:

1. Identifying the purpose of the policy to establish a unified response to suspected opioid overdose cases not limited to students, but to include staff and visitors. Example:

It is the policy of the _____ to provide assistance to any person(s) who may be experiencing an opioid overdose following protocols and procedures of the school district. Staff members trained in accordance with the policy shall make every reasonable effort to include the use of Naloxone combined with rescue breaths, to revive a person experiencing a drug overdose that may involve opioids.

2. School programs and environments covered by the policy
3. Annual education/training of all staff
 - Opioid overdose recognition and management training.
 - Signs and symptoms.
 - 5 Rs of Emergency Response to Opioid Overdose.
 - Recognize
 - Respond
 - Reverse
 - Respirations
 - Refer

- Emergency Medication Training.
 - Who can administer EAI in the absence of a school nurse (according to state law and local policy)
 - Location/storage of EAI
 - Expiration date
 - Position of patient when giving EAI
 - How to administer as dictated by the type of delivery method for the medication provided. (Injectable or nasal spray)
 - Calling 911 or local EMS
 - Disposal of used medication device
 - Monitoring/follow-up care until passed off to EMS
 - School communication protocol
 - Good Samaritan Law

4. Obtaining and using stock Medication (Injectable or nasal spray).

- School prescription and standing order.
- Procurement of stock medication (i.e., MD, PA, NP, school medical consultant).
- Stock Locations, usually multiple/ensure secure access.
- Stock supply dosages, number of doses.
- Disposal-after use and expiration.
- Administration and documentation.
- Document according to school policy, protocols, and procedures to include medications administered and the person's response.
- Follow-up and updates to policy/protocol for improvement

Every staff member needs to be trained to know the signs and symptoms of possible opioid overdose and know how to initiate the emergency protocol.

A district's all-hazard emergency plan should address schools, parents, healthcare providers, emergency medical services (EMS), and the community at large.

Sample Policies

[School District Naloxone Model Policy Template](#) (Rhode Island Department of Health)

[Naloxone Policy](#) (Lebanon School District, Pennsylvania)

[School Naloxone Administration Policy Development: Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Maryland State Department of Education)

[Naloxone Administration in Schools, Policy Manual](#) (Warwick School District, Pennsylvania)