



NALOXONE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS PROGRAM

General Public & First Responder Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated June 2022

1. What is naloxone?

Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug (i.e. prescription pain medication, fentanyl, or heroin). When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. You can learn more about naloxone on the [Department of Health's website](#).

2. What is David's Law (Act 139)?

[Act 139 of 2014](#) is a state law in Pennsylvania enabling certain first responders (law enforcement, firefighters, EMS) acting at the direction of a health care professional authorized to prescribe naloxone, to administer the drug to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose. The law also provides immunity from prosecution for those responding to and reporting overdoses. Additionally, members of the community, family members, friends, and bystanders can be prescribed naloxone and can lawfully administer the drug to someone who is experiencing an overdose.

Under this law, first responder organizations may obtain, carry, and administer naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose. According to Act 139, a non-licensed first responder agency must first enter into a written agreement with an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency.

More information about Act 139 is available on the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' website [here](#).

3. Where can I get naloxone in Pennsylvania?

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's [Naloxone Standing Order for the Public](#) ensures naloxone is available to those who may experience or encounter a person who is at risk for an opioid-related overdose. The [standing order](#) also allows local community-based organizations (CBOs) who can assist family members, friends, and individuals at risk of opioid overdose to obtain naloxone. Under the standing order's provisions, CBOs may provide naloxone in person or via mail.

You can print a document below and take it to your local pharmacy to obtain naloxone:

- [Naloxone Standing Order – For General Public](#)
- [Naloxone Standing Order – For First Responders](#)

Copy assistance may be available through the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. More information about the naloxone copy assistance program is available [here](#):

4. I'm an organization that works to prevent overdoses in Pennsylvania. Where can I get naloxone at no cost?

Launched in 2017, PCCD's [Naloxone for First Responders Program \(NFRP\)](#) provides and distributes free kits containing two 4mg intranasal doses to organizations and individuals who may encounter someone experiencing an overdose ("first responders"). A wide range of community-based organizations, agencies, and other entities are eligible to receive a supply of naloxone at no cost through [Centralized Coordinating Entities \(CCEs\)](#) across the state, or through PCCD's [NFRP Request Form](#).

Some examples of first responders who can receive kits through the NFRP include:

- **Community-based Organizations** (e.g., harm reduction organizations, Syringe Service Programs (SSPs), recovery organizations, nonprofit organizations, etc.);
- **Healthcare** (e.g., emergency departments, EMS/EMT agencies, primary care settings, and clinics);
- **Criminal Justice & Reentry** (e.g., prisons/jails, law enforcement, reentry coalitions, probation/parole, etc.);
- **Human Services** (e.g., behavioral health providers, shelters, treatment providers, etc.);
- **Education** (e.g., K-12 schools, college and university campuses, etc.); and
- **Other Groups** (e.g., parks and recreation, restaurants, hospitality, small businesses, transportation, etc.).

County/Regional CCEs serve as the primary point of contact for first responders within their communities to request and receive naloxone at no cost. You can find contact information for the CCE serving your county/region using an interactive directory on [PCCD's website](#).

In addition to these designated County/Regional CCEs, PCCD has also designated a state-level allocation of naloxone to supplement county/regional distribution efforts. Requests for naloxone through the NFRP's Statewide Allocation must be made using a [Statewide Naloxone Request Form](#). Applications from eligible organizations will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and naloxone will be distributed based on available supply and funding levels. More information about this initiative is available on PCCD's [Naloxone for First Responders webpage](#).

If you are a first responder or organization in need of naloxone, please reach out to your relevant County/Regional CCE directly prior to contacting PCCD (including submitting an application through the [Statewide NFRP Naloxone Request Form](#)). If you are having difficulty getting in contact with a CCE, please email PCCD staff at RA-PCCD_ExecutiveOfc@pa.gov.

5. Does my organization need to complete training before receiving naloxone through the NFRP?

If you are a law enforcement agency, fire department, or fire company receiving naloxone through the state procured contract, you must complete training through programs developed by the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, available at no cost, or another approved training program. Training is available through two approved online training sites: getnaloxonenow.org and [PA Virtual training Network \(PAVTN\)](#). Law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and fire companies may be asked by CCEs providing naloxone to ensure training compliance by providing certificates of completion or an assurance that training has been completed.

Although not necessary in order to obtain the medication, it is recommended that other first responder organizations and individuals receive training to recognize the signs and symptoms of an overdose and to learn how to properly administer naloxone. (Note: Verification of completed training is **only** required for recipients seeking to comply with Act 139's immunity provisions who are law enforcement agencies, fire departments, or fire companies. PCCD does **not** recommend CCEs require proof of training as a condition for receiving naloxone for individuals/organizations that do not meet these criteria.)

6. What agreements and/or documentation needs to be in place for a CCE to provide my organization with state-funded naloxone through the *NFRP*?

Pursuant to Act 139's provisions, any law enforcement agency, fire department, or fire company obtaining, carrying, and administering naloxone must first enter into a written agreement with a licensed first responder agency (EMS agency) or a Health Care Professional authorized to prescribe naloxone to have that health care professional dispense, prescribe or distribute Naloxone directly or by a standing order. A prerequisite for authorization is completion of educational requirements outlined under Act 139 for each law enforcement officer or firefighter. CCEs must ensure that any law enforcement agency, fire department, or fire company receiving naloxone has complied with requirements under Act 139, including relevant training/education requirements and agreements with a licensed EMS Agency or Health Care Professional authorized to prescribe naloxone. **(Note: Other first responder groups/community-based organizations who are not covered under Act 139 do not need to have a written agreement in place since they can provide naloxone to individuals in-person or via mail pursuant to DOH's Statewide Naloxone Standing Order for the General Public.)**

NOTE: Only first responder agencies identified in Act 139 must comply with these authorization requirements.

7. What information or data will I need to share in order to receive naloxone through *NFRP*?

Organizations serving as CCEs are required to provide the following information to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) on a quarterly basis:

- A. Total number of naloxone kits distributed by CCE
- B. Number of kits remaining at CCE by expiration date
- C. Number of kits provided to each recipient
- D. Number of doses of naloxone administered to individuals
- E. Number of individuals to whom naloxone was administered
- F. Number of naloxone administrations resulting in overdose reversal
- G. Number of naloxone kits provided through leave behind and redistribution programs

Organizations/groups receiving naloxone through the Statewide *NFRP* Allocation will also be asked to provide data to PCCD regarding distribution activities and, if available, utilization data. PCCD may request additional information and/or data from groups that have received naloxone through the *NFRP*, as needed.

Aggregate, county-level information is presented regularly by PCCD to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and other agencies to inform statewide responses to the overdose crisis.

8. What do I do with naloxone that I've received through the *NFRP* that is approaching expiration (within 2-4 months)?

If your first responder organization has naloxone that is within 2-4 months of its expiration date, please contact your respective County/Regional CCE to request an exchange. PCCD can facilitate the supply of near-expiration medication returned to areas of the Commonwealth with high levels of need using a reallocation process.

9. I recently heard about an extension of the shelf life of Narcan® by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 24 months to 36 months. What are the impacts of that decision and what does it cover?

Narcan® is an FDA-approved naloxone nasal spray supplied as a single 4 mg dose of naloxone hydrochloride in an 0.1 ml nasal spray device. The FDA has approved the extension of the shelf life of Narcan® nasal spray from 24 months to 36 months. This extension is only applicable to new product, which will be labeled with the new expiration date. This new product began distribution in December 2020. Accordingly, some product currently in the market that you may have in inventory is still subject to the expiration dating printed on its specific package.

If you have questions regarding the Shelf Life Extension or related concerns, please contact Christa Palaschak, Director of Community Health Solutions for PA, MD, and DE at Emergent BioSolutions, at palaschac@ebsi.com or 856-607-5393.

10. Who can I reach out to if I am having difficulty getting in touch with a CCE or if there aren't enough supplies available at a CCE to meet my organization's needs?

If you are an organization that has requested naloxone from a CCE and did not receive a response or were told that there was not enough supply to meet your needs, please contact Alyssa Subsinsky, PCCD's Project Coordinator, at asubsinsky@pa.gov or 717-265-8481.

Organizations may also be eligible to request naloxone through the Commonwealth's [Statewide NFRP Allocation Naloxone Request Form](#).

NOTE: If your organization would like to purchase Narcan® directly, please contact Christa Palaschak, Director of Community Health Solutions for PA, MD and DE at Emergent BioSolutions, at palaschac@ebsi.com or 856-607-5393.