

Opioid Antagonist Information

As a means of enhancing the health and safety of its students, staff, and visitors, the district maintains doses of an opioid antagonist for emergency use to assist a student, staff member, or other individual believed or suspected to be experiencing an opioid overdose.

Opioid medications (including Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Morphine, and Codeine) and illicit opioids (including heroin or illicitly manufactured fentanyl) work by binding to opioid receptors in the brain. When this happens, they can cause someone's breathing to slow down, known as respiratory depression. Sometimes this respiratory depression can be so significant that it reaches the point where people stop breathing completely. An opioid antagonist is a medication that is not an opioid but can also bind to the same opioid receptors. When it does, it blocks the effects of opioids and rapidly reverses respiratory depression, allowing someone to breathe again.

Symptoms of opioid overdose include:

- Pale, clammy skin
- Weakness or limp limbs
- Pale, blue, or purple lips or fingernails
- Snoring or gurgling noises from the mouth
- Pinpoint pupils
- Unresponsive or inability to talk/stay awake
- Slow or stopped breathing/heartbeat

Naloxone, an opioid antagonist, is accessible in the health room of each school building. Naloxone works by reversing and blocking the effects of opioids already in your system. It can restore normal breathing within two to five minutes to a person who's experiencing an opioid overdose.

If a student or staff member suspects a person is experiencing an opioid overdose, they should immediately notify the school nurse and building administrator.

If an employee has appropriately completed the PA DOH opioid antagonist training, and evidence of completing the training is on file within the district, the employee may follow the district outlined procedure including:

- Call 911
- Check for signs of opioid overdose
- Perform rescue breathing, or CPR, as instructed in the training
- Administer the Opioid antagonist.
- Continue rescue breathing.
- Administer a second dose of the opioid antagonist, if needed, as instructed in the training.

- Place in the recovery position, as instructed in the training.
- Stay with the individual until help arrives.
- Cooperate with EMS personnel.
- Notify the building and district administration.

Pennsylvania offers protection from criminal prosecution provided by law for persons who report a suspected overdose using their real name and who remain with the overdosing person until emergency medical services (EMS) or law enforcement arrive. Protection from criminal prosecution is also provided for the person whose overdose they report.

Pennsylvania offers protection from civil liability provided by law for persons who report overdoses or administer an opioid antagonist in overdose emergencies.

Policy 823 - Opioid Antagonist

PA DOH Overdose Prevention information

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/ddap/overdose/opioid-overdose>