

Naloxone Saves Lives

What Families Should Know About Naloxone in Schools

Many schools in Washington are now keeping a supply of naloxone onsite. [Washington law](#) requires school districts with 2,000 students or more to have at least one set of opioid overdose reversal medication doses (naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan®) in each of their high schools. Smaller school districts can also choose to have naloxone in their schools.

Naloxone is a safe and effective medication that temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose, including fentanyl overdose. While overdose events are rare in schools, schools should prepare to recognize and respond to an overdose the way they prepare for other medical emergencies.

Prevent Overdoses at Any Age

There is no age limit for receiving naloxone. Naloxone is an extremely safe medication that can be given to anyone, regardless of age, in the case of a suspected opioid overdose. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Food and Drug Administration](#) do not have age limits on who may receive naloxone.

Naloxone has no other action if opioids are not in the system. As the American Academy of Pediatrics' [parent information website HealthyChildren.org](#) states, "There is virtually no downside to giving naloxone to a child or teen, even if you are not sure if they overdosed on opioids."

There is no minimum age for administering naloxone. Young people can possess naloxone and use it on someone they think is having an overdose. Many communities throughout the United States have trained students from elementary through high school age on how to recognize the signs of an overdose and reverse it with naloxone.

There is no minimum age specified in the [Washington State Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone](#). Written and video instructions for recognizing and responding to opioid overdose, including how to use naloxone, can be found on the [Washington State Department of Health's website](#).

Washington's Good Samaritan Law protects a person who calls 911 to report an overdose, as well as the person overdosing, and from possession charges. However, it does not protect either of them from outstanding warrants, probation or parole violations, drug manufacture or delivery, controlled substances homicide, or crimes other than drug possession.

Read more about the Good Samaritan law on the [Stop Overdose website](#).

How to Access Naloxone

Family Members, Friends, and Other Bystanders Can Save Lives with Naloxone

Naloxone can save lives, but only when you have it with you. These resources can help you and your family members get naloxone.

- StopOverdose.org shows where to find free naloxone in your area.
- Naloxone is now available to purchase over the counter under the brand name Narcan®.
- If you have health insurance that covers naloxone (such as Apple Health/Medicaid), you may be able to obtain naloxone, including Narcan, for free or at reduced cost by using a prescription. The [Statewide Standing Order to Dispense Naloxone](#) can be used as a prescription instead of a prescription from a health care provider. Call the pharmacy ahead of time to check if they have naloxone in stock, and bring a digital or printed copy of the standing order with you.
- If you do not have a place to get naloxone in your area, you can request [free naloxone by mail](#). This program is for people who can't easily go to a community organization or a pharmacy. When possible, consider alternative options to get naloxone.

How to Use Naloxone

Visit the [CDC's website](#) or visit the [Washington State Department of Health's website](#) for text and video instructions on how to use naloxone.

Resources and Support

Resources for Talking with Adolescents and Teenagers about Drugs

- Harvard Medical School, [Teens and Drugs: 5 Tips for Talking with Your Kids](#)
- Public Health Insider (Public Health – Seattle & King County), [Talking with Teens About Fentanyl](#)
- [Talk Even If](#), available in English, Spanish, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese (Public Health – Seattle & King County), offers information about talking with teens about fentanyl and overdose.
- [Healing of the Canoe](#) offers tribal youth substance use prevention tools and education for clinicians, substance use treatment organizations, and community members
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), [Talking with Your Teen About Opioids](#)

Resources for Supporting Loved Ones with Substance Use and Mental Health Concerns

- [Recovery Helpline](#): 1-866-789-1511
 - A 24-hour help line for substance use, problem gambling, and mental health.
- [Teen Link](#): 1-866-833-6546
 - Connects teens with trained teen volunteers, with a phone line available 6 to 10 p.m. and [chat](#) or text available from 6 to 9:30 p.m. daily.
- [Crisis Connections](#): 1-866-427-4747
 - 24-hour crisis line, available to call or text. Specific resources are available for veterans, the LGBTQIA+ community, and Native Americans.
- [SAMHSA national helpline](#): 1-800-662-HELP
 - Free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service in English and Spanish. Available by phone or chat.
- [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#): 988
 - Available 24/7 by phone, chat, or text. Specific resources are available for Spanish speakers, veterans, the LGBTQIA+ community, and American Indian/Alaska Natives.
- [TrevorChat.org](#): 1-866-488-7386
 - Crisis support for LGBTQIA+ youth. Available by phone or chat.
- [WA 211](#) and [WA Connection](#)
 - Find regional and other state services.
- [FindTreatment.gov](#)
 - Resources for mental and substance use treatment.
- [WA DOH Safe Medication Return](#)
 - Dispose of household over-the-counter and prescription medications.
- [The Athena Forum](#)
 - Local community coalitions for substance use prevention.