



To: Institutions of Higher Education
From: NJ Department of Human Services
Date: April 5, 2023
Subject: Update: Naloxone Distribution to Institutions of Higher Education

The New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) is making Naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal agent commonly known as NARCAN, available for free to institutions of higher education. In accordance with the Overdose Prevention Act of 2021 (N.J.S.A. § 24:6J –1), DHS is mandated to provide a consistent supply of Naloxone at no-cost to “recognized places of public access,” including colleges and universities.

Therefore, institutions across all sectors are encouraged to register and apply to receive free Naloxone kits through the DHS Naloxone Distribution Program, which can be accessed via this portal: <https://dmhas.dhs.state.nj.us/NDP>. Please note that there is a shelf life to the medication. Accordingly, **DHS will not be issuing the equivalent of a year’s supply of naloxone in one shipment to any institution.** The portal remains open, and requests for new or replenishment orders are reviewed every business day. As an institution’s supply of naloxone depletes, they may go back to the portal to order more.

Once approved, institutions will be able to order naloxone by the caseload, with 12 kits of 4 mg nasal spray naloxone per case.

Please refer to the guidance below for more information on the program, ordering Naloxone kits, and available training opportunities for institutions.

Please reach out to Naloxone@dhs.nj.gov with any questions.

NALOXONE SAVES LIVES

Naloxone at Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs)

The New Jersey Department of Human Services (the Department) has prioritized curbing opioid overdose deaths in the state by bolstering the provision of naloxone, a life-saving opioid antidote medicine, to public and community agencies across the state. It is our hope that Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs), as places of public gathering and access and as a vital lifeline to the communities they serve, will join us in making naloxone available throughout the state to those who may be in need.

In an effort to address questions or concerns about these efforts and the role IHEs can play moving forward, the Department would like to share with you the information and resources below. The information addresses the legal obligations of IHEs as places of public access and includes information on training to ensure staff are well informed and ready to serve. The Department hopes this will provide the needed clarity to have all IHEs in the state receive and store naloxone onsite. If there are additional or specific questions, please reach out at Naloxone@dhs.nj.gov.

Legal Requirements for IHEs to Carry and Maintain Naloxone Onsite

The Overdose Prevention Act of 2021, N.J.S.A. § 24:6J-1 mandated the Department provide a consistent supply of naloxone at no-cost to “recognized places of public access,” including IHEs. As provided by statute, colleges and universities are required to:

- Maintain readily accessible opioid antidotes for the purpose of administration to any person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose;
- Have at least one employee or regular volunteer who has received training on the standardized protocols for the administration of opioid antidotes.

IHEs may also, pursuant to State and federal law, enter into an agreement with a community-based organization to distribute opioid antidotes on their premises.

Obtaining Free Naloxone

In 2022, the Department launched the [Naloxone Distribution Program](#), offering eligible agencies and entities—now including IHEs—access to 4 mg nasal spray naloxone at no cost. As of today, the Department is encouraging all IHEs in the state to [register and apply to receive free naloxone](#) through this program.



Once registered and approved, IHEs may order naloxone by the case (12 kits in a case) at no cost to keep on site. Typical shipments take two to three business days to arrive after ordering.

Available Training

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) maintains a [schedule of free naloxone trainings](#) throughout the state. DMHAS maintains an existing partnership with Robert Wood Johnson Overdose Prevention Network Trainings, which qualify as the training detailed in the above section. To find out more, please visit <https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/departments/psychiatry/divisions/division-of-addiction-psychiatry/opioid-overdose-prevention-network>.

Good Samaritan Laws

As part of the DHS responsibility to educate and promote public awareness and access to naloxone, we are enclosing the relevant law which includes protection from any civil or criminal liability for the emergency administration of naloxone in good faith consistent with the law. Please review the important protections afforded to IHEs and other places of public access, which are indispensable partners in overdose prevention. In pertinent part, the legislation reads:

“...[A] recipient who administers or distributes an opioid antidote in good faith as provided in subsection b. of this section shall not, as a result of any of the recipient’s acts or omissions, be subject to any criminal or civil liability, or any professional disciplinary action, for administering or distributing the opioid antidote.”

The link of the legislation is enclosed for your full review. [[N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4](#), [N.J.S.A. 24:6J-7](#)] Please consider the best options and method to meaningfully participate in this life-saving endeavor.

Questions?

Email us at Naloxone@dhs.nj.gov

