

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Policy on Naloxone Use

I. Introduction and Purpose

Naloxone is a medication found to reverse the effects of an opiate-related drug overdose. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the administration and use of naloxone by school personnel in response to suspected opioid overdose occurring on school property. This policy applies to all schools that operate under the administrative authority of the Archbishop of Cincinnati.

II. Administration of Naloxone

Any school operating under the administrative authority of the Archbishop of Cincinnati may decide to provide and maintain on-site access to naloxone.¹ To treat a case of suspected opioid overdose, trained school-staff may administer naloxone to any student, staff, or member of the public suspected of having an opioid-related drug overdose on the school's premises.²

The following protocols shall be followed by trained school-staff when administering naloxone to respond to a suspected drug overdose:

- Attempt to summon emergency medical service personnel as soon as practicable, either before or after administering naloxone.
- Assess the individual to determine if: (1) the person is without a pulse or suffering a cardiac arrest; (2) the person is not breathing or suffering respiratory arrest; and/or (3) the person is exhibiting signs or symptoms of a drug overdose.
- Consistent with the employee's observations and training, administer naloxone to the individual suffering the suspected drug overdose and administer CPR, as needed.
- Continue to observe and monitor the individual suffering the suspected drug overdose until emergency medical service personnel arrive on scene.
- Fully cooperate with emergency medical service personnel responding to the scene, and do not interfere with or impede the administration of emergency medical services to the individual suffering the suspected drug overdose.
- Complete a Report of Naloxone Administration and return to the principal's office, with a copy to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Schools Office, within 24 hours of the incident. *See Sample Report of Naloxone Administration, below.*

¹ See R.C. 3715.50 (B) ("[A]ny person or government entity may purchase, possess, distribute, dispense, personally furnish, sell or otherwise obtain or provide an overdose reversal drug, which includes any instrument or device used to administer the drug . . .").

² See R.C. 3715.504(A) ("In the case of an individual who is not otherwise authorized under the Revised Code to administer drugs, the individual may administer an overdose reversal drug under this section. This authority may be exercised by any individual who is in a position to assist another individual who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose.").

III. Procurement of Naloxone

Each school that decides to provide and maintain on-site access to naloxone shall obtain a standing order for naloxone by a licensed medical prescriber and update as needed. The standing order shall authorize the school to obtain, store, and administer naloxone in compliance with this policy, and impose any other conditions that the licensed medical prescriber believes is appropriate to ensure the safety and well-being of an individual experiencing a drug overdose. The original standing order shall be maintained in the principal's office, and copies of the standing order shall be kept in the nurse's office of each school.

In addition to the naloxone medication, at minimum, each school should have the following supplies on hand:

- Nitrile gloves;
- Mask/barrier device; and
- Step by step instructions for administration of naloxone.

IV. Storage of Naloxone

Naloxone shall be clearly marked and stored in a secure location that is accessible by trained staff.³ Naloxone shall be maintained in its original packaging and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to avoid extreme cold, heat, and direct sunlight. Inspection of naloxone stock shall be conducted regularly and any outdated product shall be replaced.

Naloxone shall be made readily accessible to those employees who have completed the required training to administer it in the event of a suspected drug overdose. All trained employees shall be made aware of where naloxone is stored on the school's premises.

V. Training

Before any school employee may administer naloxone under this policy, the employee must successfully complete training in the use of naloxone for overdose reversal. Each school that decides to provide and maintain on-site access to naloxone shall identify a nurse, resource officer, or other trained designee to conduct annual training on the use of naloxone. Training shall include information about recognizing opioid-related overdoses, administering naloxone, and promptly seeking medical attention for drug overdoses. Evidence that such training has been completed shall be placed in the employee's personnel file.

VI. Parental Notification

School administration shall take reasonable steps to notify students and their parents/guardians of this policy once each school year. Such notification shall encourage students to immediately report suspected drug overdoses to school officials to ensure medical assistance can be immediately provided. Reasonable means to notify students and parents/guardians of this policy shall include, but not be limited to, electronic communications, publication through student

³ See R.C. 3715.50 (C) ("[A]ny person or government entity may obtain and maintain a supply of an overdose reversal drug . . . for use in an emergency situation . . .").

handbooks, school newsletters and calendars, the school's official website, and other similar paper or electronic means of communication.

VII. Non-Employee Administration of Naloxone

Nothing in this policy is intended to regulate, restrict, or otherwise deter a law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, volunteer fire company member, licensed medical professional, or other authorized individual from administering his/her own supply of naloxone when responding in good faith to a suspected drug overdose occurring on school property.

VIII. Protections from Liability

Under Ohio law, trained school-staff who administer naloxone in good faith to a person who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose are protected from certain types of civil and criminal liability. *See R.C. 3715.504(B).* In particular, R.C. 3715.504(B) provides that an individual who administers naloxone is not liable for damages in a civil action and not subject to administrative action or criminal prosecution “if the individual, acting in good faith . . . [a]ministers the overdose reversal drug to an individual who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose . . . and [a]ttempts to summon emergency services as soon as practicable either before or after administering the overdose reversal drug . . .”

Ohio’s Good Samaritan Law also provides protections for staff who administer naloxone in an emergency. Specifically, under Ohio’s Good Samaritan Law, “[n]o person shall be liable in civil damages for administering emergency care or treatment at the scene of an emergency outside of a hospital, doctor’s office, or other place having proper medical equipment, for acts performed at the scene of such emergency, unless such acts constitute willful or wanton misconduct.” *See R.C. 2305.23.*