

Topic:	Opioid Overdose
Status:	Active
Effective:	September 2024
Revision Date:	-
Review Date:	September 2028
Responsibility:	Superintendent of Student Health

Intended Purpose

Purpose to establish emergency response procedures in the event that an individual experiences an opioid-related overdose on school board property.

Definitions

Opioid

Opioids are a class of drugs that include:

- the illicit drug heroin;
- synthetic drugs such as fentanyl and carfentanil; and
- pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin, percocet), hydrocodone, codeine, morphine and many others.

Opioid Overdose

An Opioid overdose occurs when an opioid or opioid combined with other substances overwhelm the body and as a result the Central Nervous System can no longer control basic life functions such as breathing, heart rate and consciousness.

Naloxone

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist and a safe antidote for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression. Naloxone reverses an Opioid overdose by blocking the effects of Opioid in the brain, binding to the same receptors that control breathing. Naloxone temporarily removes the opioids and their harmful

Opioid Overdose

Administrative Procedure

effects and can reverse the effects of an Opioid overdose within three to five minutes. This, in turn, reverses the respiratory depression that can lead to a fatal overdose. Naloxone medication is available in two forms: an intramuscular (i.e., injectable) or intranasal (i.e., nasal spray). *only emergency intranasal medication is permitted.

Background

Opioids are a class of psychoactive drugs that are often used for pain management. These include fentanyl, morphine, heroin, and oxycodone. While opioids are effective for pain relief, and many individuals can use them for short periods of time without concern, this class of drugs has contributed to many opioid overdose deaths across Canada. Canada has seen substantially elevated numbers of opioid-related deaths and other harms since national surveillance began in 2016 by the Public Health Agency of Canada. This public health crisis is having a tragic impact on people who use substances, their families, and communities across the country, and is shaped by a wide range of factors.

Purpose

The Board recognizes the potential need for the emergency administration of medication to a student or other individual who becomes ill, injured or unconscious as a result of an opioid-related overdose while on school board property. Persons who carry their own naloxone medication are covered by the good samaritan act.

Liability

The Board recognizes that, in the event that an emergency administration of medication is required, the Good Samaritan Act (2017) protects any individual who administers such medication by stipulating that such individuals cannot be held liable for any harm or damage resulting from their actions, as long as they have acted in good faith in administering the medication.

Procedure:

1. Roles and Responsibilities

a. The Board will ensure that:

- i. each school/board site or program will have at least one naloxone kit available at all times.
- ii. naloxone administration is a component of annual staff training.
- iii. naloxone administration is a component of all first-aid training.

b. The Principal/Manager/Supervisor will:

- i. ensure that all staff members are aware of the locations of naloxone kits within the school.
- ii. prominently display overdose-response materials
- iii. monitor expiry dates of all naloxone kits monthly and request replacement(s)
- iv. ensure that each administration of naloxone is recorded
- v. ensure that an OSBIE Incident Report is completed where the victim is a student or visitor
- vi. ensure that an Employee Injury Report is completed where the victim is an HDSB employee
- vii. immediately communicate the need for a replacement kit to the System Principal of Student Health

2. Administering Care:

a. Dispensing of Naloxone:

- i. HDSB school staff will administer naloxone in the event of an opioid-related emergency on school board property. HDSB school staff will not dispense naloxone kits proactively to students or staff.

b. Storage and Disposal of Naloxone Kits:

- i. Naloxone Kits will be stored in the AED Cabinet and be monitored monthly to check expiry date and if contents need replacement.
- ii. Disposal of used and expired kits will follow directions provided in them.

- 3. Signs and Symptoms of Opioid Overdose** (The following are signs and symptoms of opioid overdose):
- a. Unresponsive to stimuli (shake their shoulders and shout their name)
 - b. Slow or no breathing
 - c. Bluish lips and fingernails
 - d. Body is limp
 - e. Deep snoring or gurgling sounds
 - f. Vomiting
 - g. Pinpoint pupils
- 4. Emergency Medical Response Procedures:**
- a. If the individual is unresponsive and/or experiencing any of the opioid-related overdose signs and symptoms, staff will:**
- i. Call 911 immediately
 - ii. Access a naloxone kit from the nearest location
 - iii. Administer naloxone (following directions in the kit)
 - iv. If the individual wakes up and/or breathing is restored, place the person into recovery position and stay with them until EMS arrives
 - v. After two to three minutes, give the second dose of the naloxone Nasal Spray kit into the other nostril
 - vi. If the individual wakes up and/or breathing is restored, place the person into recovery position(see below) and stay with them until EMS arrives
 - vii. If individual does not wake up and isn't breathing, continue with CPR until EMS arrives
 - viii. Once an ambulance has arrived, staff will provide paramedics with a verbal report of care provided.
- b. Recovery Position:**
- i. Place nearest arm at right angle
 - ii. Put the back of other hand next to the cheek closest to you and hold it there

- iii. Bend the far knee, grasp the far leg and roll them onto their side
- iv. Open airway

5. Post-Emergency (Ensuring privacy, confidentiality and dignity of an individual experiencing an opioid overdose):

- a. Staff will complete an OSBIE Incident Report if the victim was a student or a visitor and submit to their principal/manager/supervisor
- b. Staff will complete an Employee Injury Report if the victim was a HDSB employee and submit it to their principal/manager/supervisor
- c. Principal/Manager/Supervisor or designate will immediately contact their supervisory officer
- d. As soon as appropriate after experiencing an opioid-related incident, the principal/manager/ supervisor will debrief with staff, who should be made aware of available supports (e.g., EFAP)
- e. The principal/manager/supervisor should also consult with the Traumatic Events Response Team.

6. Training:

- a. Principal/Manager/Supervisor shall review the Opioid Overdose Administrative Procedure annually to ensure **ALL** staff are aware of the program in the event of an Opioid Overdose.
- b. All site staff will be advised of the location of the naloxone Kit(s)
- c. Training for all staff will be provided annually through the Employee Self Service system
- d. Additionally, an awareness presentation will be made available on myHDSB as a resource for HDSB staff.

7. Liability:

The Good Samaritan Act, passed in 2001, protects individuals from liability with respect to voluntary emergency medical or first aid services. Subsections 2(1) and (2) of this act state the following with regard to

individuals:

2.(1) Despite the rules of common law, a person described in subsection (2) who voluntarily and without reasonable expectation of compensation or reward provides the services described in that subsection is not liable for damages that result from the person's negligence in action or failing to act while providing the services, unless it is established that the damages were caused by the gross negligence of the person.

(2) Subsection (1) applies to, ... (b) and individual... who provides emergency first aid to a person who is ill, injured or unconscious as a result of an accident or other emergency, if the individual provides the assistance at the immediate scene of the accident or emergency.

8. Resources:

- [Halton Public Health – Opioids Resources](#)
- [Government of Canada Awareness Resources for Opioids](#)
- [Canada's Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#)

Reference number: Pending

Cross-Reference:

Legislation

Human Rights Code, RSO 1990, c.H.19

Education Act, RSO 1990, c.E.2, s. 265(1)(j)

Good Samaritan Act, 2001, SO 2001, c 2

- [Canada's Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#)

Health Care Consent Act, 1996, SO 1996, c 2, Sch A

Health Promotion and Protection Act, RSO 1990, c H.7.

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSO 1990, c.M56

Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004, SO 2004, c3, Sch A

Ministry Policy & Program Memoranda

PPM 161 Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions in Schools

Board Policies, Procedures & Protocols

Administration of Prescribed and Emergency Medication – Elementary and Secondary

Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Administrative

Infection Prevention - Body Fluids

Provision of First Aid

Substance use Intervention/ Prevention