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## Naloxone Quick Facts for Schools

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# Naloxone Quick Facts for Schools

## What is Naloxone?

Naloxone, also known as Narcan®, is a non-addictive prescription medication that can rapidly counteract an opioid overdose. It can quickly restore normal breathing to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped due to an overdose. The overdose may be caused by fentanyl, heroin, prescription opioid pain medications, or substances unknowingly containing these compounds. Naloxone is safe and has no intoxicating effects. If there are no opioids present in the body, naloxone has no effect: positive or negative. A person cannot overdose on naloxone. Naloxone is safe for use in children under the age of 18.

## Why Should Naloxone Be Available in Schools?

The opioid crisis continues to take a severe toll on Maine and the United States. In 2021, 636 Mainers died of overdose, a 23% increase from 2020. While young adults and children under the age of 18 are not typically the primary population subject to opioid overdose, they can still be at risk, especially from accidental poisonings. Furthermore, any opioid user—or person unknowingly exposed to opioids—is at risk of an opioid overdose. For schools, this can include students, faculty, staff, visitors, or passersby. Having naloxone on hand is therefore an easy way to ensure that lives can be saved in the event of an opioid overdose.

## Is Naloxone Legal? What is My Liability?

Both intranasal and intramuscular naloxone are legal in Maine. The Maine Naloxone Distribution Law (Title 22 Section 2353) provides access to life-saving naloxone to various authorized sources, and subsequently, any individual who

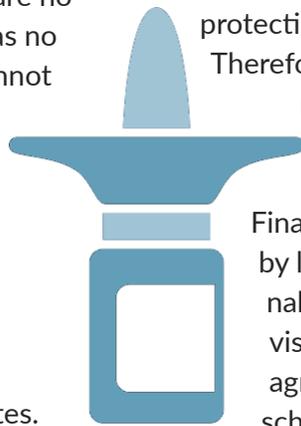
has received naloxone and training from an authorized source (such as the MNDI), or who has received a prescription for it. LD 994 provides legal protection for the possession of syringes for injectable naloxone administration. Maine's Good Samaritan Law (LD 329) also prevents a person from being arrested or prosecuted for certain violations of law if the grounds for that arrest or prosecution result from the person having a drug-related overdose or seeking medical assistance for someone else who is, and specifically provides protection for a person administering naloxone.

Therefore, liability for sites housing authorized naloxone or persons authorized to carry naloxone would be determined by principles of simple negligence.

Finally, LD 772, passed in 2021, allows by law the administration of intranasal naloxone to students, staff, and school visitors through collaborative practice agreements between licensed physicians, school health advisors, and public and private school nurses.

## What Do I Do in the Event of an Opioid Overdose in School?

Quick action saves lives. Opioid overdose, especially from non-pharmaceutical fentanyl, can be fatal in a matter of minutes. If someone is experiencing opioid overdose, or any medical emergency, immediately call 911. All you have to say to a 911 Operator is "someone is unresponsive and not breathing". Be sure to give a specific address and/or description of your location. If your workplace has formal safety planning or emergency response protocols in place, follow them. While waiting for 911 to arrive, administering naloxone offers the best chance to save the life of someone experiencing an opioid overdose. To administer naloxone, place the tip of the nasal plunger into either nostril until your fingers touch the person's nose. Once



positioned, press the plunger firmly to administer the dose. If the person is still unresponsive 3 minutes after the first dose, provide a second dose in either nostril as before. It is safe to administer multiple doses of naloxone. Naloxone is effective for 30-90 minutes, and depending on their level of exposure, the person could resume overdose after it has worn off. Therefore, even if someone experiencing overdose is revived using naloxone, they still need immediate emergency medical attention.



## Where Can My School Get Free Naloxone?

A school in Maine can get free kits of naloxone through the Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative (MNDI). MNDI naloxone is available to businesses and organizations looking to utilize it as a safety tool in their first aid response, or to provide to clients at risk of overdose as a community-oriented redistributors. At present, nearly 200 organizations across Maine have joined the MNDI since it launched in 2019. Based on your location in the state, your organization would partner with one of the MNDI's four primary naloxone distributors: Bangor Public Health, servicing Northern and Downeast Maine; MaineGeneral Medical Center, servicing Central, Midcoast, and Western Maine; Portland Public Health, servicing York and Cumberland Counties; and Maine Access Points, providing peer-to-peer statewide naloxone access. Participation in a formal naloxone training administered at no cost by a distributing T1 is required of all organizations receiving state-supplied naloxone (this document does not substitute for training). Additionally, your T1 can work with your organization to create a workplace safety plan for overdose response. If your organization is requesting intramuscular naloxone, you should also have a sharps disposal protocol in place. Visit [getmainenaloxone.org](http://getmainenaloxone.org)

to find and contact your distributing agency to request naloxone and naloxone training today!

Additionally, for the specialized contexts of high schools and colleges/universities, Maine's Pharmaceutical Narcan Provider (Emergent BioSolutions) has a Free Community Program that can provide naloxone upon request. This resource can be found at [www.narcan.com/public-service-resources/](http://www.narcan.com/public-service-resources/) or upon request at [schoolsprogram@ebsi.com](mailto:schoolsprogram@ebsi.com).

## What Additional Naloxone-Related Resources Does Maine Provide?

Maine is pleased to provide several naloxone and harm-reduction-related resources across various digital platforms, in addition to comprehensive public health programming:

- Maine's Naloxone Access Website: [getmainenaloxone.org](http://getmainenaloxone.org)
- Maine's OD-ME Overdose Response App: Search "OD-ME" on the Apple App Store or Google Play
- Maine's OPTIONS Campaign: [knowyouroptions.me](http://knowyouroptions.me)
- Maine 2-1-1: Call 2-1-1 to request information and referrals for substance use resources.
- Eyes Open for ME SUD Resources: [eyesopenforme.org](http://eyesopenforme.org)

