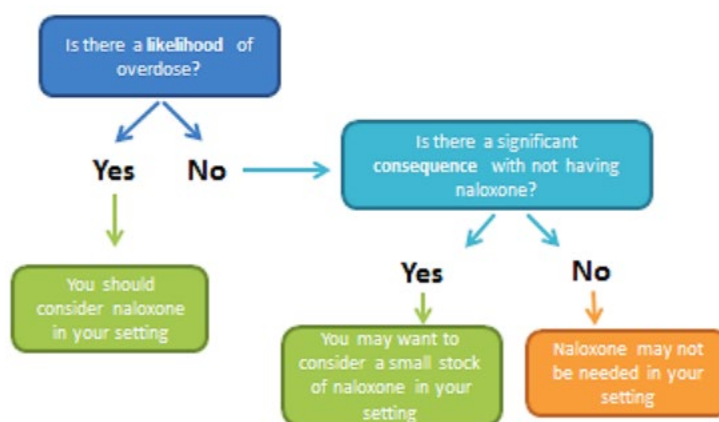




## Naloxone and Schools - FAQ

### 1. How do we know if we should have naloxone available at our school to respond to overdoses?

Schools considering having naloxone available onsite can complete a naloxone risk assessment to support decision-making.



**Likelihood High:** You should consider having an overdose response plan and naloxone available onsite. Staff should receive training to recognize and respond to an overdose using naloxone.

**Likelihood Low / Consequence High:** You may want to consider naloxone. Your assessment has indicated that the likelihood of overdose occurring in your setting is low, but that the consequences of naloxone not being available should an overdose occur, are high. Naloxone may be warranted in small quantities.

**Likelihood Low / Consequence Low:** Naloxone may not be needed in this setting. Your assessment has indicated that the likelihood of overdose occurring in your setting is low and that the consequences of naloxone not being available are low. Staff should still receive training to understand the signs of an overdose and the importance of calling first responders/911 immediately.

### 2. Where can schools get naloxone for occupational use?

Naloxone kits for occupational use (responding to an overdose in a workplace) are not included in the free naloxone programs offered by the BC provincial government.

- **Intramuscular (injection) naloxone:**



- **Purchase kits:** School Districts can purchase intramuscular naloxone kits through a local pharmacy or the Government of BC Product Distribution Centre (PDC) – [pdccustomerser@gov.bc.ca](mailto:pdccustomerser@gov.bc.ca) or 604-927-2000. Kits may be less expensive when purchased through the government distribution centre.
- **Interior Health Blue Kit Program:** The Naloxone Blue Kit program is an Interior Health program to help schools prepare to respond to an opioid drug poisoning (overdose) on site. The program provides a free naloxone kit to schools who implement a comprehensive overdose response plan. Contact the Interior Health Youth Harm Reduction Team for more information [YHRC@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:YHRC@interiorhealth.ca)
- **Nasal naloxone:** School Districts can purchase nasal naloxone from a local pharmacy. St. John's Ambulance sometimes has programs that provide free nasal naloxone kits to specific populations. Your school may be eligible for one of these programs. Find out more: [Opioid Response Training | St John Ambulance - Opioid Response and Nasal Naloxone Training | St. John Ambulance \(reactandreverse.ca\)](#)

### 3. What kind of naloxone should schools have on site? Intramuscular naloxone or nasal naloxone?

Review the document below to see key differences between intramuscular and nasal naloxone.

[FNHA-intramuscular-and-nasal-naloxone-comparison.pdf](#)

Other considerations:

Intramuscular (injection) Naloxone

- Injection naloxone is more readily available and there are more training options.
- Injection naloxone usually comes as a full kit with face shield, gloves and other supplies needed to respond to an overdose.
- Injection naloxone is less expensive to buy.
- Although needles in the naloxone kit retract after use, they will need to be disposed of in a sharps container.

Nasal Naloxone

- Nasal naloxone is more expensive to purchase than injection naloxone.



- Training options for nasal naloxone are often limited.
- Staff may feel more comfortable with administering an intranasal product.
- Nasal naloxone may not come as part of a complete kit and other supplies may need to be sourced separately.

**IMPORTANT:** Both injection and nasal naloxone still require the responder to give breaths as part of the overdose response. Neither are a replacement for giving breaths. Breaths are an essential part of the overdose response process.

#### **4. Where can schools access overdose response training that includes the administration of naloxone?**

**Intramuscular Naloxone Training:** Online self-learning modules and refresher training for intramuscular naloxone is available at [Naloxone Training](#) and a more comprehensive program can be found at [Quick Learn Module on How to Use Naloxone](#). Additional education resources and videos are available at [Toward the Heart](#). In-person training may be available through the local health authority, community agencies or local first responders.

#### **Nasal Naloxone Training:**

Nasal naloxone training and kits are not part of the provincially funded program but may be available through other programs if your school meets eligibility criteria. Contact [Interior Health's Harm Reduction Program](#) for more information.

The following training video shows how to administer nasal naloxone.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLAWvNU7tjY>

#### **5. What policies and procedures to support overdose response should schools have in place?**

Schools should ensure they have proper overdose response protocols in place this includes:

- Training plans that include regular refresher training.
- Policies and procedures for recognizing and responding to an overdose. These should include post-incident support and debriefing for responders and witnesses. A template is available to assist schools with this - contact the [Youth Harm Reduction Team](#) for support in developing your policy.

#### **6. Can naloxone kits be provided to students at school?**



Yes – school staff or a community agency/partner can provide naloxone kits to students at the school with the school's permission or refer students requesting naloxone to community Take Home Naloxone sites. To find a location near you go to the naloxone site finder on [Toward the Heart](#). There is no age criteria for receiving a kit. Naloxone and training can be provided to students who are at risk of overdose or who may witness an overdose.

#### **7. Where can schools get naloxone kits for students?**

Injectable naloxone is available at no cost through the BC Take Home Naloxone Program for anyone at risk of overdose or who may witness an overdose. Nasal naloxone is not included in this program but may be available through other sources. Contact the [Youth Harm Reduction Team](#) for more information.

Schools can also refer students to community Take Home Naloxone sites. Naloxone is typically available at health centres, mental health and substance use offices, community harm reduction agencies and some pharmacies. To find a location near you go to the naloxone site finder on [Toward the Heart](#).

#### **8. If a student is asking for a naloxone kit, is there a duty to report this to the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) or to the student's parents/guardians?**

If a student requests a naloxone kit, it is not an indicator of imminent harm or neglect and there is not a duty to report this to MCFD or the student's parents/guardians.