

## **Plan for the Procurement and Distribution of Opioid Reversal Agents to State Agencies**

### **Chapter 440 of the 2024 Virginia Acts of Assembly (HB342) Background**

[House Bill 342](#) was passed in the 2024 General Assembly session and is effective July 1, 2024. HB342 requires state agencies to possess naloxone or other opioid antagonists used for overdose reversal to a person who is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a life-threatening opioid overdose and permits employees of any state agency to possess and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonists.

The bill also directs the Department of Health to post on its website informational resources relating to the use of naloxone and other opioid antagonists for opioid overdose reversal and prevention in public places.

Finally, the bill directs the Department of Health to develop a plan for the procurement and distribution of naloxone or other opioid antagonists to each state agency and for the possession of naloxone or other opioid antagonists by each state agency and to report its progress in developing such plan to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2024.

### **VDH Naloxone Distribution Background**

VDH prioritizes high-priority individuals to receive no-cost naloxone. High-priority individuals include people who use drugs (PWUD), family members, friends, or coworkers of PWUD and people who work directly with PWUD.

To achieve this goal, VDH offers no-cost naloxone to authorized comprehensive harm reduction sites, community services boards, local health departments, first responders (law enforcement agencies, fire service organizations, licensed emergency medical services (EMS) agencies), public school divisions and high-impact community partners (treatment and recovery centers, rehabilitation facilities, homeless service providers, and community-based organizations that serve high-risk populations).

FDA approved Naloxone 4mg nasal spray as over-the-counter (OTC) in March 2023 and it is now commercially available. In March 2024, the Virginia Department of General Services (DGS) established an optional statewide contract for OTC naloxone 4mg nasal spray. The opioid antagonist procurement and distribution plan may be modified in the future to include other strengths of naloxone and/or other opioid antagonists that are available for anyone to obtain without a prescription.

To expand naloxone distribution to entities that are not eligible for the no-cost naloxone, VDH is developing a streamlined process to provide naloxone for a fee. This includes state agencies in accordance with the DGS optional contract for Executive Branch State Agencies and all other public bodies which have the option to utilize the DGS contract.

**Each state agency is responsible for funding the purchase of naloxone to comply with Chapter 400 of the 2024 Virginia Acts of Assembly.**

## **Plan for the Procurement and Distribution of Naloxone or Other Opioid Antagonists**

State agencies may:

- 1) Choose to purchase directly from the statewide contractor by following the requirements as specified in the optional statewide contract ([contract CTR023570](#)); or
- 2) Purchase through the Virginia Department of Health.
  - a. State agency point of contact will contact VDH Naloxone Distribution Program Team via [OpioidReversal@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:OpioidReversal@vdh.virginia.gov). VDH will initiate an Agency-to-Agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each state agency for the procurement of at-cost naloxone.

The statewide contract is maintained by DGS and subject to change. In order to identify the best route and current pricing for your agency, please contact [opioidreversal@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:opioidreversal@vdh.virginia.gov).

## **Plan for the Possession of Naloxone or Other Opioid Antagonists by State Agencies**

State agencies have discretion on the quantity of naloxone or other opioid antagonists that they purchase, how they allocate inventory, and how they monitor and maintain inventory. VDH recommends that state agencies consider the following when implementing plans to comply with the mandate to possess naloxone:

- Prioritize public-facing facilities to stock OTC naloxone on-site for emergency use. As resources allow, expand to additional locations as appropriate.
- Integrate naloxone or other opioid antagonist formulations that are currently approved as OTC into emergency plans and procedures already in place for your state agency, such as placing naloxone in first-aid kits, next to AEDs or in strategic locations where it will be easily accessible in the event of an overdose emergency. Plans should include procedures to monitor for expiration dates, replace expired or used doses, and account for proper and safe storage of naloxone or other opioid antagonists.
- Utilize the REVIVE! Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education program developed by Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) for the Commonwealth of Virginia to train staff on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency using naloxone.
- State agencies may contact DBHDS for training on the administration of opioid antagonists. Please submit training requests to [revive@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:revive@dbhds.virginia.gov).
- Reference resources on the externally facing VDH [naloxone and test strip distribution webpage](#) that provide education about naloxone and other opioid antagonists and how they may be used to prevent overdoses in public places.
- Currently, state agencies are only permitted to maintain OTC naloxone products for purposes of possessing and administering naloxone or other opioid antagonists. At this time, the only OTC opioid antagonists are two strengths of naloxone nasal spray (4 mg and 3 mg). Should other opioid antagonists become available over-the-counter, this plan may be revised.