

Suspected Opioid Overdose Policy (Narcan Policy)

I. Introduction:

The purpose of this Scott County School Policy on Suspected Opioid Overdose is to provide best-practice guidelines for responding to overdose in the school setting. It is not intended to supersede the individual prescriptive orders for Naloxone (Narcan) administration contained in the individualized healthcare plans of students with an established need for Naloxone (Narcan) availability. In fact, all students who have had a prior opioid dependence or otherwise identified as with need for Naloxone (Narcan) availability, should have this addressed specifically in an individualized healthcare plan and should provide Naloxone (Narcan) for their personal use to their school.

II. Definition of Suspected Opioid Overdose

Suspected or confirmed opioid overdose consists of respiratory depression evidenced by slow respirations or no breathing and unresponsiveness to stimuli. A suspicion of opioid overdose can be based on presenting symptoms, history of opioid use, reporting by bystanders, school nurse or staff with prior knowledge of opioid use, or nearby medications, illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia. Observation of signs and symptoms of opioid overdose are the first treatment steps of emergent care. Basic Life Support, and reversal of overdose with Naloxone (Narcan) with immediate summoning of emergency medical personnel and emergency transportation to the hospital can reduce the effects of the respiratory distress from suspected opioid overdose.

III. Recognizing and Responding to Opioid Overdose

Opioids include illegal drugs such as heroin, as well as prescription medications used to treat pain, such as morphine, codeine methadone, oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®, Lortab®, Norco®), fentanyl (Duragesic®, Fentora®), hydromorphone (Dilaudid®, Exalgo®), and buprenorphine (Subutex®, Suboxone®). Opioids work by binding to specific receptors in the brain, spinal cord, and gastrointestinal tract. In doing so, they minimize the body's perception of pain. However, stimulating the opioid receptors or "reward centers" in the brain also can trigger other systems of the body, such as those responsible for regulating mood, breathing, and blood pressure.

IV. Signs and Symptoms of Suspected Opioid Overdose

Body System	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE
Mouth / Throat	Loud, uneven snoring or gurgling noises (death rattle)
Lungs	Shallow, slow breaths (fewer than 10 per minute) or not breathing at all
Skin	Pale, blue or gray, clammy
Heart	Slow or erratic or absence of pulse (heartbeat) Blue Lips or fingertips (from lack of oxygen) Low Blood Pressure
Mental	Unresponsive to stimuli such as noise, shaking, or sternal rub Unconsciousness
Other	Constricted (pinpoint) pupils Body and limbs are limp Drowsy/lethargic Speech infrequent or slurred

V. Treatment for Suspected Opioid Overdose

- A. Attempt to rouse and stimulate the student/patient (perform sternal rub by making a fist; rub your knuckles firmly up and down the breast bone).
- B. Call 911, if other staff members are available request AED and naloxone/NARCAN® be brought to the scene.
- C. If possible, monitor and record respirations, heart rate and blood pressure. Note suspected opiate overdose (as evidenced by pinpoint pupils, depressed mental status, etc.).
- D. If available, administer naloxone/NARCAN®

NALOXONE

1. Remove yellow caps from needle-less syringe. Attach the nasal atomizer (applicator) on the top of needle-less syringe. Remove purple cap from prefilled vial of naloxone. Thread vial into needle-less syringe by gently twisting naloxone until you feel it “catch”. DO NOT PUSH VIAL INTO SYRINGE. Expel air.
2. Tilt the person’s head back and spray half of naloxone up one nostril and the other half of naloxone up the other nostril.

IMPORTANT: In an emergency if you do not have the atomizer, you can squirt the naloxone into the person’s nose as directed without the atomizer.

NARCAN®

1. Peel back package to remove the device. Hold the device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and two fingers on the nozzle. Place and hold the tip of the nozzle in either nostril until your fingers touch the bottom of the patient’s nose. Tilt head back. Press the plunger firmly to release the dose into the patient’s nose.

E. Start CPR as necessary.

F. Notify parents and school administrator

G. Allow **1-3 minutes for medication to work**. If there is no change to the person’s condition, give another dose of naloxone/NARCAN® as in **Step D** above and continue rescue breathing as necessary.

H. Continue CPR if necessary.

I. Stay with the person until medical help arrives. Notify EMS of naloxone/NARCAN® administration.

J. Notify School Nurse Coordinator of administration of naloxone/NARCAN®

K. Document event on “Report of Suspected Opioid Overdose” form and submit to School Nurse Coordinator.

VI. Standing Order

Standing orders are written to cover multiple people as opposed to individual-specific orders, which are written for one person. Scott County Schools shall designate an authorized medical provider (MD, DO, PA, or NP with prescriptive authority) to prescribe non-student specific naloxone/Narcan® in the school division, to be administered to any **student** having a suspected opioid overdose on school grounds, during the academic day. This order does not cover faculty or guests, only Scott County Students. Standing orders must be renewed annually and with any change in prescriber.

VII. Incident Report of Suspected Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Administration

A “Report of Suspected Opioid Overdose” must be filled out immediately following the incident (see attached form). The person responsible for initiating the completion of this form should be either the 1st Responder who administered the Naloxone or the school Administrator. All parties involved in the rescue shall have input in the completion of this report. Once completed, a copy should be sent to the nurse coordinator, School Board Office, and the original shall be filed in the student’s medical records.

VIII. Offsite School Activities

Stock Naloxone (Narcan) is intended for use on school premises and should not be carried offsite. Stock Naloxone (Narcan) can only be administered by personnel who have completed REVIVE training with the Virginia Department of Health. Any suspected Opioid Overdose will require immediate contact with Emergency Medical Assistance.