

# Naloxone Expiry Notice

Like other medications, Community Based Naloxone Program Naloxone Kits come with expiry dates. This is a friendly reminder to check the expiry date on the sticker on the back of your Naloxone Kit or on the side of the naloxone vials to ensure that the kits you have and/or are providing to the public are not past expiry. If you are a provider, encourage clients to check the expiry labels on their kits and vials at home and return any expired and unwanted kits to a community pharmacy or discard safely as outlined below.

## What can you do with your expired Naloxone Kits?

There are a few options for what to do with expired Naloxone Kits:

- You can keep your expired kits and use them for training purposes. **If you use your expired kits for training, please make sure to mark the kits clearly as expired and not for use.**
- You may discard the expired vials and keep the other kit contents as extra supplies that can be provided to clients as a backup or used as needed.
- You can discard your expired kits safely.

## How do I discard expired Naloxone Kits safely?

Different parts of the Naloxone Kit are to be disposed of as follows:

- **Naloxone Kit case (black zippered container), barrier mask, alcohol pads and gloves** may be discarded in your household or industrial garbage bins to be collected by municipal waste management for disposal they are considered general waste.
- **Syringes** may be discarded in a sharps disposal or biohazard container, which you may find in some public areas, health care settings, or purchase from community pharmacies. A hard plastic container with a narrow opening and secure cover (e.g., a bleach bottle, milk jug, large water bottle) may also serve as a designated sharps container if labelled explicitly (e.g., **Sharps or Syringes**). These containers can be returned to some community pharmacies, Eco Stations, harm reduction organizations that collect sharps, or Fire Department. For more information on sharps disposal in your area, call your local municipality, city services at 311 or community and social resources information at 211.
- **Expired vials of naloxone** can be returned to some community pharmacies for safe disposal or disposed of via your approved process for disposal of medications at your work site. If no other means are available to collect the vials, they may be discarded in a sharps disposal container as needed.

## Can expired naloxone still save a life?

Some studies have been done on expired naloxone and naloxone exposed to extreme temperatures that involved repeated freezing and thawing, which found that naloxone may still be stable and effective in reversing opioid effects in an emergency. This is especially important if it is the only naloxone available. We do not recommend distributing Naloxone Kits that are expired, and encourage people to replace or get new kits when naloxone vials are expired or exposed to extreme temperature, but people may choose to hold on to their expired kits if they wish them to serve as a backup. See our [Injectable Naloxone Storage Recommendations](#) for more information.

### Tips for minimizing amounts of expired kits

- Note expiries of your Naloxone Kits and mark them on a calendar.
- Check your Naloxone Kit stock often for upcoming expiries and ensure you give out or use kits that are expiring soonest **first**.
- If you are a provider, and there is no large demand for Naloxone Kits from your registered site, order 1 or 2 kits per order to avoid accumulating large amounts of kits that will likely not be distributed to the public. Delivery of kits takes 7 to 10 days, so more can easily be obtained as needed on a weekly basis.

### How can I replace my expired Naloxone Kit(s)?

- Registered providers can reorder kits online at [www.ahs.ca/naloxone](http://www.ahs.ca/naloxone) using the login code provided upon registration with the Community Based Naloxone Program. Kit orders are processed Wednesday mornings at 9 am. To ensure your kits orders are processed for that week, please have your order in by Tuesday at 11:59 pm.
- Members of the public can access kits at over 1,900 registered provider sites across Alberta, including community pharmacies, walk-in clinics, public health centres, emergency departments and urgent care centres, and other member programs. For an interactive list, see <https://public.tableau.com/profile/surveillance.reporting.ahs#!/vizhome/MapforNaloxoneKitDistribution/Dashboard8> or go to [Get Naloxone](#).

### References

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