Recovery Alberta

FAQ – Community Sites

Community-based Naloxone Program

The Community Based Naloxone (CBN) Program distributes naloxone kits to partner organizations that provide them free of charge to the public. CBN partners include community pharmacies, community-based organizations, public and private clinics, hospitals, community health sites and private businesses.

This document answers frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the program and is intended to support new and existing community sites (non-pharmacy).

How do I register to become a CBN Program partner and get community-based naloxone kits?

Read and follow the instructions in the Community Based Naloxone Program Guide to register your program as a CBN partner and educate your staff to prepare for distribution. Visit recoveryalberta.ca/getnaloxone for all the forms you will need to complete. Register your site by completing the Community Based Naloxone Partner Registration form. This takes 7 to 10 business days to process and complete. Once completed, you will receive an email with a unique login code for your site. You will then be able to order kits via the Community Based Naloxone Kit Order Request form. Delivery of naloxone kits takes 7 to 10 days with no delivery fee.

What training do I need to distribute community-based naloxone kits?

Anyone who distributes a community-based naloxone kit is considered a kit provider. Providers who do not have access to MyLearningLink, should complete the learning module (titled Community Based Naloxone Training for Kit Distribution) found on recoveryalberta.ca/getnaloxone or an equivalent training that is based on the Community Based Naloxone Training Guide. Providers with access to MyLearningLink should complete the Community Based Naloxone (CBN) Training for Kit Distribution course on MyLearningLink. This will take approximately 30 minutes. Additional training tools can be found on recoveryalberta.ca/getnaloxone.

What information do I need to collect from someone requesting a naloxone kit?

You do not need to collect any identifiers (e.g., ID, name, date of birth) to provide someone with a community-based naloxone kit at a community site. Information the CBN Program needs when distributing naloxone kits is data collected via monthly reporting for evaluation of the CBN Program (see below).

What reporting is required of our site to give out community-based naloxone kits?

The Community Based Naloxone Monthly Distribution Report is required reporting for partners of the CBN Program. **This report is due on the 8th day of every month for the previous month.** You can find CBN Program forms/tools at recoveryalberta.ca/getnaloxone. You should designate one person (and a back-up, if possible) at your site to be responsible for collecting the information necessary for this report and for submitting it on time. It may be helpful to review this report before distributing CBN kits to decide how you and your team can best collect this information every month. Accurate reporting of CBN kits distributed is extremely important. You may choose to create your own spreadsheet or form to collect this information in a way that best suits your program as needed. If you are interested in accessing paper tracking sheets (you will still have to submit this data electronically), please reach out to naloxone.kit@recoveryalberta.ca.

What training should I provide clients receiving kits and how long will training take?

Providing an individual with a community-based naloxone kit should always be accompanied by training on the kit and how to use it. Training time can vary depending on the individual's experience and knowledge but can take approximately 10 minutes on average. Training is not mandatory and can be refused by the individual. There are training videos, handouts, and tools that you may use to inform yourself as a provider and guide your training at recoveryalberta.ca/getnaloxone. Before handing a kit out, always open it and ensure that all contents are present. Note the expiry to ensure it is up to date.

Can we give kits to family members or friends of a person who uses substances?

Yes! Community based naloxone kits are available to any person who is at risk of witnessing or experiencing poisoning. Proof of this risk is not required to get a kit. If they are a concerned member of the public and want to have a kit on hand to be able to help someone else, they can have a kit.

Can our organization use the training resources on the CBN Program website to train our staff in administration of naloxone?

Yes. The resources found on recoveryalberta.ca/getnaloxone are for public use and can be incorporated and adapted into your training. We ask that you reference and provide credit to Recovery Alberta for any material used, in case your staff would like to access the original material. Note: Community based naloxone kits are not to be used for administration in a workplace setting for workplace use. Our kits are funded for public use only.

Are we able to use community-based naloxone kits if someone experiences poisoning in our workplace?

Community based naloxone kits are intended for use by members of the public who are at risk of witnessing or experiencing poisoning in the community. They are **not** funded for use by employees in the workplace setting (e.g., for occupational health and safety or emergency response while at work). As of 2023, employees in workplaces are authorized to administer injectable naloxone as part of their job duties, provided they are trained, and their employer meets the requirements. This is especially beneficial for those who work in settings where people are at risk of overdose poisoning. Employers are responsible for purchasing naloxone kits for the workplace. Injectable naloxone kits for workplace use can be purchased from community pharmacies in Alberta and will usually come in a red case. For more information, visit Workers administering injectable naloxone.

How can we prevent accidental exposure to fentanyl?

Incidental skin exposure to fentanyl is extremely unlikely to immediately harm you. Fentanyl may appear as a powder, tablet, rock, sticker/blotter or liquid solution. It is important to do an initial risk assessment. Inhalation and transfer to mucous membranes (eyes, nose, and mouth) are typical routes of exposure. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, face mask, respirator, or goggles/visor as needed, if your work could potentially expose you to fentanyl (e.g., a shelter worker picking up discarded belongings in a shelter bathroom). If a scene is visibly high-risk for exposure (e.g., an illegal drug lab), call 911 immediately and do not enter. If contact occurs, immediately wash the affected area with soap and water to remove the residue. Do not use alcohol-based rubs or wipes. Visit What you need to know about fentanyl exposure (Health Canada) to learn more. For information on safe needle disposal, see Getting rid of needles safely.

What if someone has used their naloxone kit and wants to replace it?

Providing a replacement community-based naloxone kit to someone who has used their kit to reverse opioid poisoning is acceptable and encouraged. Provide a kit as you normally would, collecting information about their previous kit for the monthly report as appropriate.

If I have more questions, who may I contact?

For any questions, concerns or support, please email naloxone.kit@recoveryalberta.ca.

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