

Students

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

5141.213(a)

Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone)

The Board of Education (Board) is committed to enhancing the health and safety of individuals within the school environment. The Board recognizes that many factors, including the use and misuse of prescription opioids can lead to overdose and death among the general public, including District students and staff. The District will identify the specific location for the storage of Naloxone and protocols for its administration in emergency situations to assist individuals suspected to be experiencing an opioid overdose.

I. Definitions

Drug overdose means an acute medical condition, including, but not limited to, severe physical illness, coma, mania, hysteria or death, which is the result of consumption or use of one or more controlled substances causing an adverse reaction. The signs of opioid overdose include unresponsiveness; nonconsciousness; shallow breathing with a rate fewer than 10 breaths per minute or not breathing at all; blue or gray face, especially fingernails and lips; and loud, uneven snoring or gurgling noises.

Naloxone (Narcan) means a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug. As a narcotic antagonist, Naloxone displaces opiates from receptor sites in the brain and reverses respiratory depression which is usually the cause of overdose deaths.

Opioid antagonist means naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting and equally safe drug approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a drug overdose.

Opioid means 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), fentanyl, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), and buprenorphine.

Qualified school employee means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach, or school paraeducator.

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II. Delegation of Responsibility for the Administration of Naloxone

The town of Fairfield's School Medical Advisor will issue a non-patient specific standing order to Fairfield Health Department school nurses, working in the Fairfield Public Schools, to administer intranasal Naloxone (also known as Narcan, among other names) for emergency first aid to students, staff, or visitors who do not have a prior written order from a qualified medical professional for the administration of Naloxone. The non-patient specific order shall include a written protocol containing the elements required by applicable state law and state regulations.

Each school nurse and qualified school employee(s) selected by the nurse in conjunction with the school principal, shall be trained in the administration of Naloxone in accordance with state law. A qualified school employee is a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, coach, school paraeducator, or licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by the school district. Each District school shall have at least one qualified school employee designated and trained to administer Naloxone. A minimum of one qualified school employee must be on school grounds during regular school hours when the school nurse is absent.

The Board permits school nurses and any qualified school employees trained in the administration of Naloxone in accordance with state law to administer Naloxone to any person at school during regular school hours displaying symptoms of an opioid overdose. A qualified school employee may administer an opioid antagonist when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. Regular school hours are those hours as defined and publicized on the Fairfield Public School website annually at the start of the school year.

For any before and after school activities, events, or programs that do not take place during regular school hours, 9-1-1 should be called immediately if an individual is displaying symptoms of an opioid overdose. If a trained, qualified school employee is on school grounds during any before and/or after school activities when an individual is displaying symptoms of an opioid overdose, they may administer Naloxone.

Administration of Naloxone in the Fairfield Public Schools shall be in accordance with this policy and its regulation, Board Policy 5141.21, Administering Medications, and applicable Department of Education, Department of Health, and Department of Consumer Protection guidance as well as applicable state law and agency regulations.

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III. Acquisition, Storage and Disposal

Naloxone kits will be stored securely in the school nurse's office at each district school in accordance with the drug manufacturer's instructions. Naloxone shall be accessible during regular school hours.

In addition, for access during before or after school activities, Naloxone kits will be stored in all AED cabinets in each school.

The school nurse shall obtain sufficient supplies of Naloxone pursuant to the standing order in the same manner as other medical supplies acquired for the school health program. The school nurse or designee shall regularly inventory and refresh Naloxone stocks in accordance with internal procedures, manufacturer's recommendations, and any applicable Department of Public Health guidelines. The school nurse shall maintain and update records of the acquisition, storage, and disposal of Naloxone kits.

IV. Parental Opt-out for Administration of Emergency Naloxone

A parent or guardian may submit a written and signed request to the school nurse that their child not be administered an opioid antagonist in the event of an emergency. Such request shall be valid for one school year only and will require renewal each school year.

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(cf. 5141 – Administering Medications)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners. Administration of medications by parents or guardians on school grounds. Criminal history; records check.
10-212a Administration of medications in schools.
17a-714 Immunity for prescribing, dispensing or administering an opioid antagonist to treat or prevent a drug overdose.
21a-279(g) Penalty for illegal possession. Alternate sentences. Immunity.
52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render.

Connecticut Regulations of State Agencies 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-10, inclusive, as amended.

PA 22-80 An Act Concerning Childhood Mental and Physical Health Services in School

Adopted 5/23/2017

Revised and Adopted 9/26/2023