



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Health Departments Unite to #EndOverdose

*Free opioid overdose prevention training offered to citizens*

**CHICAGO**—Member agencies of the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC) are joining together to promote opioid overdose awareness in August and September. Around the world, International Overdose Awareness Day is held on August 31 to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death.

NIPHC health departments and partners are hosting **15 free public events** throughout the region to equip citizens with knowledge and tools to stop overdoses and save lives. The public is urged to attend an event to:

- Remember those who have lost their lives to overdose;
- Learn about the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and how to use the lifesaving antidote naloxone (also known as Narcan); and
- Discover local resources.

“By training residents to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and administer naloxone, we’re adding more people to combat this deadly public health emergency, help save lives and get those with substance use disorder into treatment,” said Dr. Amaal Tokars, President of NIPHC.

Overdose awareness and training events are as follows:

### **Chicago:**

- Saturday, August 31, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Annual West Side Cookout & Celebration of Life  
3110 W. Taylor St., Chicago, IL  
Hosted by The Chicago Recovery Alliance

### **DeKalb County:**

- Wednesday, September 18, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. NIU STEM Café  
Eduardo’s Mexican Restaurant, 206 E. Lincoln Hwy, Dekalb, IL  
Details on the [NIU website](#)

### **DuPage County** (details at [www.hopedupage.org](http://www.hopedupage.org)):

- Wednesday, August 28, 5:30 – 8 p.m. (Narcan training at 6:45)  
Bloomingtondale Police Department, 201 South Bloomingtondale Rd., Bloomingtondale, IL  
Hosted by LTM Foundation
- Thursday, August 29, 6 – 9 p.m. (Narcan training at 6:45)  
Serenity House, 891 South Rohlwing Rd., Addison, IL

Hosted by Serenity House

- Friday, August 30, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Narcan training at 6:30)  
Naperville Grande Pavilion, 912 Honorary Sindt Memorial Court, Naperville, IL  
Hosted by PATH to Recovery

**Grundy County:**

- “In Plain Sight” trailer  
Teaches parents of teenagers to spot hidden signs of substance misuse and sexual activity  
Contact the Grundy County Health Department for details: (815) 941-3404.

**Kane County:**

- Friday, September 6, noon, Opioid Awareness Event and naloxone training  
Senior Services Association, 2111 Plum St., Aurora, IL  
To register, contact Diane Dawson at (630) 264-7696 or [dawsondiane@co.kane.il.us](mailto:dawsondiane@co.kane.il.us).
- Monday, October 28, 2 p.m., Naloxone training  
Kane County Sheriff's Office, 37W755 IL-38, St. Charles, IL  
To register, contact Diane Dawson at (630) 264-7696 or [dawsondiane@co.kane.il.us](mailto:dawsondiane@co.kane.il.us).

**Kendall County:**

- Friday, September 20, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
Opioid Overdose: Recognize, Respond, and Recovery  
811 W. John St., Yorkville, IL  
To register, contact Nancy Villa at (630) 553-9100 by September 10.

**Lake County:**

- Tuesday, September 24, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Naloxone training  
Waukegan Public Library, Ray Bradbury Room, 128 N County St., Waukegan, IL  
Visit [health.lakecountyil.gov](http://health.lakecountyil.gov) for more details.

**McHenry County:**

- Thursday, August 29, 6:00 p.m. Roar for Recovery  
Police escorted motorcycle ride from Woodstock Harley-Davidson to Woodstock Square  
Hosted by the McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition
- Thursday, August 29, 7:15 p.m., Rev for Remembrance for residents lost to overdose  
Woodstock Square, Woodstock, IL  
Hosted by the McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition
- Sunday, September 15, 9 a.m. – noon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ride for Recovery  
Northern Illinois Recovery, 620 N. Rte 31, Crystal Lake, IL  
To register, contact Laurie Crain (815) 334-4048 or [llcrain@mchenrycountyil.gov](mailto:llcrain@mchenrycountyil.gov).

**Will County:**

- Wednesday, September 18, 9 – 10:00 a.m., Narcan training  
Will County Office Building, 302 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL

**Winnebago County:**

- Wednesday, September 26, Noon and 6 p.m., Narcan training  
Winnebago County Health Department, 555 N. Court St., Rockford, IL  
To register, contact Emily Schmidt at (815) 720-4283 or [ESchmidt@wchd.org](mailto:ESchmidt@wchd.org).

According to the National Safety Council, drug poisoning is the number-one cause of unintentional death in the United States.

The Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances, also known as the Helpline, is a free, confidential service for finding treatment and recovery providers in Illinois. Anyone can use the Helpline, whether they have a substance use disorder or care about someone who does. Trained Helpline Specialists answer questions, provide support, and connect callers to services.

Call the Helpline at 833-2FINDHELP 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Specialists include English and Spanish-speaking staff, and interpreter services are available in any language.

*NIPHC is a point of collaboration and exchange of information for local health departments in the northern Illinois region to promote health, prevent disease and protect communities. The consortium also works to raise public awareness, build constituencies and shape legislation and policies that affect public health in the region. Please see <http://www.niphc.org/>*

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