

# COUNTY OF KANE



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## Kane County Health Department Distributing Free Life-Saving Medication

(July 16, 2024) —The Kane County Health Department is distributing a free medication in the Chicagoland area. This medication, **naloxone**, can save the life of someone who has received an overdose of an opioid drug. Such opioids include fentanyl, heroin, oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, and morphine. As of 2022, an estimated 14.5 opioid-related deaths occurred for every 100,000 people in Kane County and **fentanyl** was a factor in 73% of those deaths.

“It is vitally important that people have access to this life-saving medication,” said Michael Isaacson, Executive Director, Kane County Health Department. “Deaths from overdose and fentanyl have been on the rise for years, and the distribution of naloxone has been proven to save lives. We believe all people matter, and all people deserve to live a healthy life. By distributing this medication for free, we’re hoping to save lives and give people a chance to overcome the challenges they may have.”

Approved by the Food and Drug Administration, naloxone should be administered when a patient shows signs of opioid overdose. Naloxone can help reverse an opioid overdose, even when the opioid was used in combination with sedatives or stimulants. The patient must receive medical attention as soon as possible after receiving naloxone, because it is a temporary treatment and its effects do not last long.

Nasal naloxone is easy to use, small to carry and comes in a box with two doses. Often, two doses are needed to reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone can restore normal breathing within two to three minutes in a person whose breathing has slowed, or even stopped, as a result of an opioid overdose. Naloxone won’t harm someone if they’re overdosing on drugs other than opioids.

It is legal in Illinois for non-medical professionals to administer naloxone to an individual experiencing opioid overdose. Naloxone is widely used by first responders as well as community members throughout Illinois. Anyone can be trained to use naloxone to reverse the effects of an overdose. Naloxone is as safe as water, even for children and pregnant women, and there is no possibility of addiction. If you give someone naloxone, call 911 and stay with them until emergency help arrives.

“Naloxone offers a safe and easy method of saving people from potential death from overdose,” Isaacson said. “We encourage people to contact our Kane County partner organizations for naloxone and have it on hand if needed in an emergency. It’s free, effective, and can save lives.”

**Where to Get Free Naloxone in Kane County** - The following organizations and agencies will provide free naloxone confidentially to community members. Organizations shown with an \*asterisk can also provide free fentanyl test strips. For more information, visit <https://www.kanehealth.com/opioid-awareness/Pages/Get-Naloxone.aspx>.

### **Aurora**

African American Men of Unity, (630) 606-1910

\*Association for Individual Development, (630) 966-4000

Aurora Public Library, (630) 264-4120

Echo Development Center, (630) 859-2248

Kane County Health Department: Naloxone is available in the lobby at 1240 N. Highland Avenue, Aurora for pickup any time, M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\*Mutual Ground, (630) 897-0084

Simply Destinee Youth Center, (708) 926-4979

**Campton Hills:** Campton Hills Police Department, (630) 584-4242

### **Elgin**

\*Ecker Center for Behavioral Health, (847) 695-0484

Mathers Recovery Center, (847) 462-6099

**Naperville:** Path to Recovery Foundation, (630) 962-9652

### **St. Charles**

\*Kane County Sheriff's Office (630) 232-6840 - 24 hour free naloxone and fentanyl test strip vending machine in the lobby at 37W755 Lincoln Highway

Kane County State's Attorney's Office, (224) 833-2557

\*Lighthouse Recovery, (630) 940-2468 - 24 hour free outdoor naloxone vending machine at 210 S. 5th Street  
St. Charles Police Department lobby at 1515 W. Main Street

Tri City Health Partnership, (630) 377-9277

**Lee County:** \*Lee County Health Department, 815-284-3371

**Recognizing Opioid Overdose** - According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, recognizing the signs of opioid overdose is essential to saving a life. If a person shows **any** of these symptoms, call 911 immediately:

- 1.) Their face is extremely pale and/or feels clammy to the touch.
- 2.) Their body goes limp.
- 3.) Their fingernails or lips have a purple or blue color.
- 4.) They start vomiting or making gurgling noises.
- 5.) They cannot be awakened or are unable to speak.
- 6.) Their breathing or heartbeat slows or stops.

People at higher risk of overdose are those who:

- 1.) Take high doses of opioids for long-term management of chronic pain.
- 2.) Receive rotating opioid medication regimens.
- 3.) Have been discharged from emergency medical care after opioid poisoning or intoxication.
- 4.) Take certain extended-release or long-acting opioid medications.
- 5.) Those who've had a period of abstinence, including those recently released from incarceration.

Opioid overdose can happen when:

- 1.) A patient misunderstands the directions for use, accidentally takes an extra dose, or deliberately misuses a prescription opioid.
- 2.) A person uses illicit drugs.
- 3.) A person takes opioid medications prescribed for someone else.
- 4.) A person mixes opioids with other medications, alcohol, or over-the-counter drugs.

Patients prescribed an automatic injection device for naloxone or who use the nasal spray should keep the item available at all times. Replace medication when the expiration date passes and if exposed to temperatures below 39°F or above 104°F.

To learn more, please visit [overdoseinfo.org](http://overdoseinfo.org) and <https://www.kanehealth.com/opioid-awareness/Pages/What-is-Naxolone.aspx>.

Groups can request virtual or in-person training by contacting: [phdopioidinfo@kanecountyil.gov](mailto:phdopioidinfo@kanecountyil.gov).

To follow along on social media, use the links below:

<https://www.facebook.com/kanehealth> \_

<https://www.instagram.com/kanecountyphd/> \_

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/kane-county-health-department> \_

[www.youtube.com/@kanecountyhealthdept](http://www.youtube.com/@kanecountyhealthdept)