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DATE

Thank you for your continued efforts to fight the opioid crisis. As individuals who interact with the Commonwealth's children you often provide care and comfort during difficult situations. Ensuring that you have the resources you need during a potential overdose situation is a priority of the Department of Public Health.

As you know, naloxone is an opioid antagonist that blocks the effects of opioids such as heroin, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, codeine, and methadone.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, through the Board of Registration in Pharmacy (BOP), Drug Control Program (DCP), Office of State Pharmacy Services (SOPS), and the School Health Services Unit advises Massachusetts pharmacists, pharmacies, school districts, superintendents, school nurses and school physicians that a prescriber may order and a pharmacy may dispense non-patient specific naloxone rescue products for use in Massachusetts public and private schools for emergency treatment of opioid overdoses.

The DPH School Health Services Unit has training resources available for school districts that choose to purchase, store and administer naloxone.

<https://d2rw76b9nsxu2w.cloudfront.net/nodes/1098/images/NarcanToolkit%20for%20School%20Nurses.pdf>

Reduced Pricing / Ordering through State Office of Pharmacy

In response to the increasing number of opioid-related fatal overdoses, the Municipal Naloxone Bulk Purchasing program was established. The program allows municipalities to purchase naloxone rescue products for use by that municipality through SOPS at reduced pricing.

Although school districts can utilize any pharmacy in the Commonwealth, reduced pricing is available to public schools and school districts through SOPS. Massachusetts public school nurses may purchase naloxone through SOPS pursuant to the order of a physician following the process outlined at <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/substance-abuse/bulk-purchasing->

[guidance.pdf](#). A copy of the ordering prescriber's MCSR must be provided when ordering naloxone.

Dispensing by Local Pharmacy

A pharmacy may dispense naloxone for use in schools without a prescription in accordance with the pharmacy's standing order that allows the pharmacy to dispense naloxone without a prescription in accordance with M.G.L. c. 94C, § 19B. Additionally, a pharmacy may dispense naloxone pursuant to a non-patient specific prescription written to a "person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate related overdose," such as a school nurse, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 94C, § 19(d). A pharmacist may create a patient profile by using the name and address of the school or "naloxone rescue – for school use". School districts utilizing local pharmacies are subject to the pharmacy's regular pricing.

Pharmacists should provide counsel and distribute the "Naloxone Pamphlet" when dispensing naloxone rescue kits for use in schools.

Cc: Marylou Sudders, Secretary