

Memo

To: Mayor Burton and Members of Council
From: Colleen Bell, Commissioner, Community Services
CC: ELT
Date: March 18, 2024
Subject: Expansion of First Aid Response for the Public

Purpose: To advise Council of an expansion of service to our first aid program for the public in all recreation and culture facilities and library branches.

Background

Recreation and Culture facilities and Oakville Public Library (OPL) branches are equipped with first aid kits as mandated by the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*, the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (O Reg 565), and other applicable legislation. Additionally, these sites are equipped with at least one Automated External Defibrillator (AED). These first aid resources are essential to ensure that both staff and members of the public have access to basic and immediate first aid supplies.

Naloxone Hydrochloride, also known as Naloxone, Narcan, or Evzio, can temporarily reverse the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose. It can be administered through injection or inhalation. However, if someone is experiencing a medical emergency other than an opioid overdose—such as a diabetic coma or cardiac arrest—administering Naloxone will not cause additional harm.

Anyone who experiences an opioid overdose, whether from a prescribed medication or an illicit drug, can benefit from Naloxone. Opioids encompass substances such as heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, and morphine. An opioid overdose occurs when an individual consumes an excessively high dose of opioids. Symptoms may include slowed or ceased breathing, which can potentially result in death.

The cities of Cambridge, Kingston, London, Oro-Medonte, Barrie, Niagara Falls, and St. Catharines are among the many Ontario municipalities that have already introduced Naloxone kits in their municipal facilities, including community centres and library locations. Most recently Burlington Public Library introduced Naloxone with positive feedback from the public.

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Comments

Expanding our first aid response resources to include Naloxone nasal spray adds another potentially life-saving tool to our first aid response program. Just like using an AED, administering Naloxone promptly can increase the chances of saving lives.

These kits will be available in town-owned public access facilities, including Recreation and Culture facilities and OPL branches. Identifiable wall-mounted holders will be installed to keep the kits near the public access AED units. Nasal spray Naloxone kits can be accessed by both the public and staff during an emergency.

Staff have met with Halton Region Public Health, who support increased access to lifesaving Naloxone in the community. The Recreation and Facilities Joint Health and Safety Committee, Oakville Fire Department, and OPL are in support of this recommendation. OFD's approved Naloxone SOP is referenced as the foundation for a new SOP for this purpose.

Staff training will focus on recognizing the signs of an opioid overdose, safely administering Naloxone, and understanding any potential risks associated with its use. Courses and recertifications provided by organizations such as St. John Ambulance and Red Cross now include instruction on how to use Naloxone nasal spray to treat suspected overdoses. Additional training will be offered to staff members who have not yet received it

Each Naloxone kit will include:

- i. Two doses of intra-nasal spray, with each dose containing 4 mg/0.1 ml of Naloxone Hydrochloride.
- ii. One rescue breathing barrier.
- iii. One pair of non-latex gloves.

It's important to note that these tools and first aid techniques are intended to serve as the first line of defense until EMS personnel arrive.

There are numerous programs that provide free nasal spray Naloxone kits along with complimentary training. There are no budget implications associated with implementation. Costs for mounting cases can be accommodated within existing budgets, and training can seamlessly integrate into existing training programs.

Naloxone kits are expected to be in place at all identified locations by the end of May 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Mitchell, Director, Recreation and Culture or Tara Wong, CEO, Oakville Public Library.