

DRUG OVERDOSE PREVENTION RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS



Department of Health

In the face of the ongoing overdose crisis, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) aims to provide local public health, public safety, and health care personnel with tools and resources to address this public health need. The following are lists of recommendations and resources intended to support you in your efforts to address the drug overdose crisis in your community with compassion and without stigma. For more information about overdose and related resources in New York State, please visit <https://oasas.ny.gov/prevention> and <https://oasas.ny.gov/prevent-overdose#top>, or contact opioidprevention@health.ny.gov.

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:



- [Find COVID-19 resources for people who use drugs.](#)
- Request the resource “Your Health Matters Build a Safety Plan,” available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) from the NYSDOH at no cost to you.
- Address [stigma](#) against people who use drugs in your community by removing barriers to culturally competent care and services, and by correcting negative assumptions about people who use drugs.
- Discuss risks of [fentanyl \(fentanilo\)](#) contamination in opioids and stimulants and refer to sites that provide [fentanyl test strips](#).
- Have distribution materials ready for [Safety Tips](#) for using stimulants and risks associated with combining use with heroin.
- Learn how to become a registered [Opioid Overdose Prevention Program](#) in New York State.
- Educate community members on the ability to access naloxone at pharmacies. Help promote the [Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program \(N-CAP\)](#), which allows individuals with prescription coverage to get naloxone at pharmacies with N-CAP covering co-payments up to \$40.
- Educate and recruit hospitals, Emergency Departments (ED), and urgent care centers on the [NY Medication Assisted Treatment and Emergency Referrals \(MATTERS\)](#) network. NY MATTERS is a statewide electronic referral platform to efficiently initiate buprenorphine to patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) in the ED and rapidly link patients to community-based services.
- Share these [Facts about the 911 Good Samaritan Law](#) with your community to encourage individuals to call 911 for help in the event of a suspected overdose.

FIRST RESPONDERS (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENTS):

- Know how to promptly identify signs and symptoms of opioid overdose, including: slow or shallow breathing, erratic or no breathing, blue or purplish-black lips or fingernails, unresponsiveness, and unconsciousness.
- Know how to promptly identify signs and symptoms and characteristics to identify a [methamphetamine overdose](#) including agitation, chest pain, irregular or stopped heart, high body temperatures and seizure.
- Familiarize yourself with [other, more known source for common names](#)
- Review [Opioids: First Responder Information](#) for safety tips on [preventing occupational exposure](#).
- Be familiar with these [Facts about the 911 Good Samaritan Law](#) when responding to an overdose.
- If you are a participating Opioid Overdose Prevention program, please remember to report all naloxone administrations to the New York State Department of Health using the [New York State Public Safety Naloxone Quality Improvement Usage Report Form](#).

PHARMACISTS:



- When appropriate, educate customers of the serious health [risks associated with being prescribed opioids](#)— especially when in [combination with benzodiazepines](#).
- Proactively offer naloxone and education about how to administer it to patients receiving syringes through the [Expanded Syringe Access Program](#) and to patients prescribed opioids.
- Ensure that naloxone (also known by the brand name, Narcan) is in stock and that a standing order is in place so individuals do not need a patient-specific prescription to obtain this life-saving drug. Please see [Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program \(N-CAP\)](#) for more information.
- Participating pharmacies are encouraged to display N-CAP posters and to provide [promotional materials](#) (available at no cost to you) to customers accessing opioids and syringes.
- To request a standing order to dispense naloxone, or if you have questions about N-CAP, please contact. naloxonepharmacy@health.ny.gov.

COUNTY CORONERS/MEDICAL EXAMINERS:

- The Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) will allow Medical Examiners and Coroners to file Cause of Death corrections electronically. This will improve the timeliness of reporting and appropriate coding of the cause(s) of death. Please see [EDRS Information for Medical Examiners & Coroners](#) to learn more.
- Learn more about the New York State's [Database Application for Vital Events \(DAVE\)](#) system used to electronically register vital events like deaths and fetal deaths that occurred in New York State but outside of New York City.



HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS:

- The NYSDOH AIDS Institute provides clinical guidelines on best practices on [judgement-free care](#).
- Become licensed to [prescribe buprenorphine](#) for the treatment of opioid use disorder.
- Join and utilize the [NY MATTERS network](#). NY MATTERS is a statewide electronic referral platform to support the initiation of buprenorphine in various referral settings and rapidly link patients to community-based care.
- Register with [NYSDOH AIDS Institute Provider Directory](#) and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's \(SAMSHA\) Treatment Practitioner Locator](#) to allow patients to know you are authorized to prescribe buprenorphine.
- Review these [guidelines](#) on how to prescribe buprenorphine in an accessible and culturally competent way.
- Contact the NYSDOH Buprenorphine Access Initiative with any questions about buprenorphine at buprenorphine@health.ny.gov.
- Be informed on [Treatment Options and Intervention of Stimulant Use Disorders](#) during a stimulant overdose response and identify need for polysubstance use and stimulant intervention when responding to an opioid overdose.
- Be aware of cultural communities and different ways that drugs such as methamphetamine (ex: "chemsex") may be used.
- Contact your [local health department](#) for questions about opioid use and response in your community.

SUPPORT, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY RESOURCES:

- Visit the New York State Department of Health website to learn about [Drug User Health](#), including helpful information and resources, such as Syringe Access Programs and Drug User Health Hubs.
- Check this list of [NYS-Authorized Syringe Exchange Programs](#) for a program in your area to access available programming and services. This list includes operating days and times.
- Be familiar with [Second Tier Syringe Exchange Programs](#) procedures and locations.
- Find out about new [Regional Substance Use Disorder Services](#) from the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).
- Search for multiple services including Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs), Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP), Safe Sharps Disposal, Naloxone and [Hepatitis C](#) Testing and Treatment at [Syringe Access and Disposal](#).



- Find licensed medical practitioners authorized to prescribe buprenorphine through the SAMHSA [Buprenorphine Treatment Practitioner Locator](#).
- Learn more about [buprenorphine](#), an option for Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder.
- Find residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment programs and services in your area using the [New York State OASAS Treatment Availability Dashboard](#).



New Yorkers and their loved ones struggling with an addiction can find help and hope 24-hours-a-day, 7-day-a-week by calling the state's toll-free HOPELine at **1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369)**, by texting HOPENY (Short Code 467369).

