

Iowa HHS Naloxone Nasal Spray Initiative FAQ

What is the difference between the Iowa HHS naloxone nasal spray administration initiative and the distribution initiative?

Administration Initiative: Through this Iowa HHS initiative, law enforcement agencies, non-EMS regulated fire departments, and Iowa organizations, businesses and schools can request free naloxone nasal spray kits to have on-hand for administration purposes if they encounter someone (as part of their work) experiencing a suspected opioid overdose.

Distribution Initiative: Through this initiative, the identified entities now have the authority to distribute naloxone nasal spray products provided to them by HHS, to individuals defined as a person in a position to assist.

What is Naloxone?

Naloxone nasal spray devices contain 4 mg of naloxone per spray. Naloxone is an “opioid antagonist” medicine. It attaches to opioid receptors in the brain to reverse and block the effects of opioids, which may restore normal breathing to someone experiencing an opioid overdose within 2-5 minutes.

Lower dose naloxone can facilitate a more gradual overdose reversal with less severe withdrawal in people with opioid dependence or an increased opioid tolerance ([SAMHSA](#)). Withdrawal can consist of flu-like symptoms and heightened anxiety and is sometimes acutely painful.

What organizations are eligible for the Naloxone distribution initiative?

Law enforcement agencies, Fire departments, school districts, health care providers, licensed behavioral health providers, county health departments, Iowa HHS

As a distributor, can my organization distribute kits to other organizations so they can distribute them?

No. The kits can be distributed to individuals, but cannot be distributed to “other organizations in the community such as churches, businesses, factories, etc.” Those organizations would need to sign up as a distributor or as part of the administration initiative.

What are the different ways my organization can distribute Naloxone?

Through the naloxone nasal spray distribution initiative, organizations should focus on distributing naloxone nasal spray to individuals likely to respond to an overdose. Most *active* distribution efforts can be supported using naloxone nasal spray provided by Iowa HHS. Allowable use of the Iowa HHS naloxone nasal spray distribution initiative must include naloxone nasal spray administration training and collection of the following data points for each initiative used:

- 1) Number of naloxone nasal spray administration trainings conducted.
- 2) Number of individuals trained on naloxone nasal spray administration.

- 3) Number of naloxone nasal spray kits distributed.
- 4) Number of naloxone nasal spray administrations reported (and if known, outcomes).

Examples of *active* naloxone nasal spray distribution:

- **EMS leave-behind programs:** First responders leave behind a naloxone nasal spray kit when responding to an emergency call related to an overdose or substance use.
- **Peer Distribution:** Naloxone nasal spray is distributed by peers (people with lived/living experience of substance use).
- **Re-Entry:** Naloxone nasal spray is distributed to individuals when re-entering the community from jail/prison.
- **Health Care Settings:** Naloxone nasal spray is distributed by emergency departments/acute Care and other health settings including mental health and pain management providers.

Due to training and data collection requirements, *passive* naloxone nasal spray distribution efforts cannot be supported using naloxone nasal spray provided by Iowa HHS. However, other options to support these types of programs include use of local Opioid Settlement Funds or other grants and fundraising.

Examples of *passive* naloxone nasal spray distribution:

Passive naloxone nasal spray distribution is when naloxone nasal spray is made available, but training and outcomes are not tracked.

- **Naloxone Boxes:** Naloxone nasal spray is placed in boxes available for community distribution at any time
- Naloxone nasal spray **delivery via mail**
- **Publicly Available** naloxone nasal spray **in Overdose Hotspots:** Naloxone nasal spray is available for emergency use, placed in locations where overdoses frequently occur.

Does my organization need to report data for the distribution initiatives if we already submit data for other projects (e.g., SOR)?

Yes, your organization should report the required data points for each program separately. For SOR trainings, include the following data: administration trainings (clarify if this was an SOR training), number of individuals trained, number of kits distributed, and number of administrations reported and known outcomes.

Can my organization distribute naloxone nasal spray kits to individuals under age 18?

Yes, there exists no known statutory provision, regulatory directive, legal precedent, or analogous instance in other jurisdictions pertaining to the dispensation or prescription of naloxone nasal spray to minors that would point to any prohibition or additional processes/considerations for minors.

How can my organization get new naloxone nasal spray if the naloxone nasal spray kit(s) were used, lost or are expired?

Your organization should email sor@hhs.iowa.gov to request new naloxone nasal spray kits. If naloxone nasal spray has been administered, report this to Iowa HHS within 30 days of the administration. Include the date of the administration, how much naloxone nasal spray was administered, and the outcome. Replacement naloxone nasal spray kit(s) will then be sent to your organization.

If my organization's address is in a bordering state, can I participate in the distribution initiative?

Yes, your organization can participate in the naloxone nasal spray distribution initiative if your organization will be distributing the provided naloxone nasal spray to Iowa residents. Iowa HHS would need a signed letter of attestation (on a company letterhead) from your organization director sent to sor@hhs.iowa.gov, stating that reasonable efforts will be made to assure that kits received would be distributed to Iowa residents only.

One of the requirements for distribution is training individuals. What is required?

There are no specific training curriculums that must be used, but instructions on proper use or administration must be provided by the naloxone nasal spray distribution provider. Training must explain to the person receiving the naloxone nasal spray kit, all the components of proper administration of the medication. Trainings can be as brief as two minutes and as long as an hour or more. The important thing is making sure the person receiving naloxone nasal spray has a complete understanding of proper administration.

Can I apply for the distribution initiative and use the product for a naloxone box or vending machine?

Due to the data collection requirements for the distribution initiative, providing naloxone nasal spray without direct training would not be allowed. However, Iowa HHS would be willing to review proposals that utilize a vending machine if the vending machine is temperature controlled, provides administration training and has a method of verifying that administration training was received.

How much naloxone nasal spray can an organization request monthly/yearly for distribution?

Below are the current limits and required data collection points for the naloxone nasal spray distribution initiative:

Some things to know when placing your order:

- Each box contains 12 kits (two doses per kit).
- Orders are placed by the box, meaning quantities of 12 kits.
- There is a limit of 20 boxes per order (240 kits).
- No more than one order may be placed per month.

In addition, as an applicant you agreed to collect the following data points and report them to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services via email to

sor@hhs.iowa.gov:

- Number of naloxone nasal spray administration trainings conducted.

- Number of individuals trained on naloxone nasal spray administration.
- Number of naloxone nasal spray kits distributed.
- Number of naloxone nasal spray administrations reported (and if known, outcomes).

What should my organization do with expired naloxone nasal spray kits?

Your organization can use expired naloxone nasal spray kits as trainer kits or take them to your nearest pharmacy.

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