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[Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone](#)

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QUESTIONS

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Naloxone Program Administration for School Districts

by Scarlett Sadler

In September 2022 California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a [health alert](#) to address Fentanyl which continues to be a major contributor to opioid overdoses across the state, including among youth. In addition to the concerns surrounding Fentanyl, a new trend has emerged with the use of Rainbow Fentanyl, which is described as a brightly colored fentanyl that can be found in many forms to include resembling sidewalk chalk and candy.

To respond to the increase in opioid overdoses in youth, CDPH is encouraging school districts to create policies addressing administering Naloxone, a life-saving drug that reverses an opioid overdose. [Education Code section 49414.3](#) provides a means for schools to respond to a potential opioid overdose. It allows school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to make naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist available to school nurses and trained employees who volunteer to administer the drug to a person who is suffering or reasonably believed to be suffering from an opioid overdose. It is recommended when developing a Naloxone or Opioid Antagonist Administration Program that a district address the following elements:

- A policy that addresses the administration of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist to include:
 - Purpose and Scope
 - Program Administrator and administrative duties, to include;
 - Obtaining and ensuring an adequate supply of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist (replenishing used and/or expired supply)
 - Coordinating and overseeing training to include updates every five years
 - Periodic evaluations of the program

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- Initial and annual training components for volunteer(s) to include:
 - Techniques for recognizing symptoms of an opioid overdose
 - Administration of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist
 - Standards and procedures for the storage, restocking, and emergency use of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist
 - Basic emergency follow-up procedures, including procedures to contact 911 and the pupil's parent or guardian
 - Recommendations for the necessity of certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 - A description of the training that the volunteer will receive
- Procedures for maintaining training records as well as volunteer records
- Storage and Maintenance of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist
- Documentation of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist usage
- Annual notifications – to all district employees
 - Description of the volunteer request to administer naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist
 - Naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist volunteer training description
 - Rights of employees wishing to rescind offer to volunteer
 - A statement that no benefit will be granted or withheld from any individual based on the offer to volunteer. No retaliation will be allowed against any individual for rescinding an offer to volunteer, including after receiving training
- Ensuring defense and indemnification are provided by the school district for the employee volunteer
- Parent/guardian notification regarding the school districts program to administer naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist



Should a school district choose not to store naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist or train employees to administer the drug, it must evaluate the emergency medical response time to the school and determine whether initiating emergency medical services is an acceptable alternative. It is recommended that a school district document this determination.

If a school district chooses to administer naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist, the district should also consider addressing the administration of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist in their medication administration board policy 5141.21 and ensure that all medication administration is in accordance with the law, Board policy, administrative regulation, and, as applicable, the written statement provided by the student's parent/guardian and authorized health care provider.

While it is not explicitly stated in 49414.3, a school district could be held liable for not responding to an opioid overdose. Therefore, districts should consider which approach they wish to follow and ensure all applicable policies and training align with the requirements.

If you have any questions regarding Naloxone Program Administration, please contact [Risk Control](#).