Naloxone (Narcan)

What is Naloxone?

- Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a nose spray that is used to prevent opioid overdoses.
- Naloxone only works to stop overdoses caused by opioids, but is safe to use even if the person is not overdosing.

What are opioids?

- Opioids are a type of drugs that help with pain.
  Opioids can be:
  - Prescription medicines (medicines your doctor orders for you), such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin, and Fentanyl.
  - Illegal drugs that are sold on the street, such as Heroin.

What are the signs of an opioid overdose?

Someone may be suffering from an opioid overdose if they:

- Are passed out or not responding
- Have slowed or stopped breathing
- Have blue, gray, or white lips or fingernails
- Are making snoring or gurgling sounds
How to use Naloxone to stop an overdose

Check to see if the person is having an overdose:

- Check for signs of an opioid overdose.
- **Shout loudly into the person’s ear.** If the person does not respond, rub your knuckles into their breastbone. This is called a sternal rub.
- **If the person still does not respond, it’s an emergency.**

Respond to the overdose with these steps:

1. **Call 911.**
   Tell them that someone is not breathing.

2. **Give them Naloxone.**
   Spray into one side of the nose by pushing the plunger. If the person does not respond in 2 minutes, give a second dose.
   **Do not test the device—you can only use each device once.**

3. **Give rescue breaths or CPR if you know how.**
   Tilt the person’s head back. Pinch the nose. Give two breaths. Watch for their chest to rise. Keep giving one breath every five seconds.

4. **Turn the person over on their side.**
   This is called the recovery position, which will prevent them from choking.

What to do after you give Naloxone:

- **Stay with the person** until help arrives.
- **Report the use of Naloxone** to the program where you got it from.
- **Get a new kit** if you use one or more doses or when the Naloxone expires.