



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Dear Colleague,

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Philadelphia is in the midst of a worsening overdose crisis. Since 2020, over 3500 Philadelphians have died of a drug overdose. Approximately 80% of drug overdoses involve an opioid, such as fentanyl, and approximately 75% occur indoors. Naloxone is an opioid reversal agent that can save someone experiencing a drug overdose. On March 29, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized Narcan® naloxone nasal-spray to be sold over the counter. Anyone in Pennsylvania can obtain intranasal or intramuscular naloxone without any individual prescription using the Department of Health's Standing Order, and, in Philadelphia, all pharmacies in are required by law to stock naloxone.

Despite policies to increase access to Naloxone in pharmacies, there are still many pharmacies in Philadelphia where naloxone is not available. This action kit provides the tools and resources for pharmacists to learn about the policies and regulations for stocking and dispensing naloxone in Philadelphia, as well as training and instructions for naloxone administration. Pharmacies are trusted venues to access medications, and this action kit supports pharmacists to help every Philadelphia put naloxone in their medicine cabinet. This action kit provides:

- An updated protocol for pharmacists to dispense naloxone using the PA DOH standing order
- Information on the City of Philadelphia Ordinance requiring pharmacies to stock naloxone
- Resources for completing naloxone and overdose reversal trainings
- Patient materials describing opioids, naloxone, and overdose response that can provided to customers along with their naloxone.

The action kit can be accessed here: <https://www.phila.gov/documents/2023-naloxone-action-kit-for-pharmacists/>

Thank you for your dedication to improving the health of all Philadelphians.

Respectfully,

Daniel Teixeira da Silva MD, MSHP (he/him)  
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