

# TIMELINE OF Community Naloxone IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



## BACKGROUND



### NALOXONE

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that can temporarily reverse the effects of opioid overdose. It can be administered either via injection or by nasal spray.

Effects begin to wear off after about 20 minutes; OD may recur, requiring another dose of naloxone.

### HISTORY OF NALOXONE

Naloxone has been used in Canada in emergency settings for over 45 years.

The UK & Germany began distributing naloxone to people who use opioids in 1995; the USA began in 1996.

Canada's first take home naloxone program was started in Edmonton in 2005.

2013

2012

#### JANUARY

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) began preparations for the BC Take Home Naloxone (THN). Letters of support were obtained from the Provincial Health Officer; Vancouver Coastal, Vancouver Island, Fraser, & Interior Health Authorities; City of Vancouver; & BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

#### AUGUST

Aug 31 - BC THN pilot program launched; six sites located in Vancouver Coastal & Interior Health Authorities

#### AUGUST

First anniversary of the BC THN program: >550 people trained in prevention, recognition, & response; >400 kits dispensed; 24 sites across BC; 30 OD reversals reported

#### DECEMBER

All BC Health Authorities have THN sites (First site in Vancouver Island Health opened Mar 2013, Fraser in Apr 2013, Northern in Dec 2013)

2014

#### MARCH

[Harm Reduction Supply Distribution Site Locator](#) launched - searchable map showing locations where BC THN training & kits are available

#### APRIL

BC THN program endorsed by Doctors of BC in recognition of its importance in preventing OD fatalities

#### AUGUST

Second anniversary of the BC THN program: >125 OD reversals reported; >2,200 people trained in prevention, recognition, & response; >1,200 kits dispensed; 51 sites across BC

#### NOVEMBER

World Health Organization releases new guidelines for reducing opioid-related deaths, recommended expanding naloxone access to people likely to witness an OD in their community

BC THN program was runner up in the 2015 BC Quality Awards "Getting Better" category

2015

#### APRIL

Decision Support Tool developed that enables registered nurses & registered practical nurses to dispense naloxone without a prescription from a physician or nurse practitioner

First regional correctional facilities (Alouette Correctional Centre for Women & Fraser Regional Correctional Centre) offered THN on release

2016

#### JANUARY

Ministerial Order authorized BC Emergency Health Services to permit all ambulance crew (regardless of training) to administer naloxone

BC Emergency Health Services announced first responders working for municipal fire departments are able to administer naloxone, after agreement with municipality & training are in place

#### MARCH

Health Canada removed naloxone from Prescription Drug List and made available as Schedule II (behind the counter) in BC - pharmacist could train & dispense naloxone to the public

Number of naloxone doses in each kit increased from 2 to 3 doses

#### APRIL

April 14 - public health emergency declared by Provincial Health Officer provide BC THN

Educational sessions for pharmacists held by BC College of Pharmacists, Ministry of Health, and BC Centre for Disease control - 1,000 pharmacists trained; [webinar available](#)

[Naloxone Saves Lives video](#) released for adult audiences, showing how to recognize & respond to an OD

#### JUNE

All emergency departments in BC directed to provide THN

BC Emergency Health Services changed policy regarding informing police. Police no longer informed of all suspected ODs. Case-by-case assessment; police attend if safety concern, suicide, attempt, death, or requested by paramedics

Naloxone added as an open benefit on the Drug Benefit List under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, First Nations & Inuit Health

College of Physicians & Surgeons of BC professional standards & guidelines for safe prescribing of drugs with potential for misuse/diversion recommended physicians offering THN to all patients at risk of respiratory depression due to prescribed opioids

#### JULY

Federal Minister of Health signed interim order to allow intranasal naloxone to be imported from USA

#### AUGUST

Collaborated with Inner City Youth to create an [art booklet](#) depicting experiences of street involved youth with THN

[Naloxone Wakes You Up](#) video released for youth audiences, showing how to recognize and respond to an OD

#### SEPTEMBER

Naloxone became unscheduled in BC - available for sale outside of pharmacies

Intranasal naloxone became available for non-health staff in federal & provincial corrections sites for use in medical emergency due to suspected OD if no nursing staff are available

[How to Use Naloxone](#) video released, showing steps involved in administering injectable naloxone

First federal corrections facility in Canada (Fraser Valley Institute for Women) to offer THN on release

Expiry label added to the outside of kits

#### OCTOBER

Regulated health professionals are able to administer naloxone without a physician directive after an amendment is made to the [Health Professions General Regulation \(HPGR\)](#)

Health Canada approved sale of intranasal naloxone in Canada

Prescription & patient names no longer required by the BC THN program

#### NOVEMBER

Overseeing care provider for BC THN distribution no longer required to be a medical staff member - counselors, program directors, etc. now able to oversee program onsite and delegate to trained staff

Branding changed from red to silver cross

#### DECEMBER

All licensed or registered treatment facilities in BC directed to carry naloxone & ensure staff are trained to administer it

Facility Overdose Response Box (FORB) program launched, providing naloxone & supplies to community sites at high risk of OD event (require sites to complete training, develop protocol & policy for OD response)

BC THN kit eligibility expanded to include those at risk of witnessing as well as those at risk of OD (health care staff must continue to obtain from employer)

Overdose prevention sites opened by [Order of the Health Minister](#)

2017

#### JANUARY

An additional amendment is made to the [Health Professions General Regulation \(HPGR\)](#) act to allow any designated health professional to administer emergency use naloxone whether or not they are in a hospital setting

#### APRIL

QuickLearn training module on opioid OD recognition, response, & naloxone administration launched

#### MAY

Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act was made law: people who call 911 to report an OD will not be charged with simple possession, nor will the person who overdoses or anyone who is at the scene when help arrives

THN available on release in four federal corrections facilities in BC

BC Coroners pilot program launched, providing THN kits and training to surviving family, friends, or residents, where appropriate

#### JUNE

[QuickLearn](#) available on PHSA Learning Hub - certification of completion available

#### AUGUST

BC THN available on release in all provincial correctional facilities

#### OCTOBER

Following executive support for BC Coroners Service pilot, BC THN kits are now available for distribution by designated Coroners across BC

#### NOVEMBER

[Naloxone training app](#) available - certificate of completion available to print

#### DECEMBER

BC THN kits became available, at no cost, in some community pharmacies

2018

#### JANUARY

Pilot program launched: ambulance services replacing used kits at call

#### MARCH

25 overdose prevention sites and 5 supervised consumption sites/supervised injection sites now active; >800,000 visits; and >5,000 overdose events survived (as of Mar 31, 2018)

#### APRIL

Nasal naloxone is [listed as a Health Benefit](#) for First Nations in BC

#### SEPTEMBER

BCCDC releases a [position statement](#) recommending against the use of bag valve masks by untrained individuals in response to an overdose event

#### NOVEMBER

The ambulance THN kit replacement program expands to mainland stations and select community paramedicine stations, totaling 139

#### DECEMBER

New monthly [infographic](#) shows the latest stats of the Facility Overdose Response Box (FORB) program

2019

#### AUGUST

[Why Give Breaths](#) training video created

Intranasal [SAVE ME training video](#) created in partnership with FNHA and WAHRS

## PUBLICATIONS

2019

November

[Evaluation Report](#) released reviewing the Take Home Naloxone program - to December 2018

[Evaluation Report](#) of expansion of Take Home Naloxone into community pharmacies is released

October

A [publication](#) examining the 2016 ramp-up of the Take Home Naloxone program in BC is published

July

[Evaluation Report](#) of British Columbia's Facility Overdose Response Box (FORB) program is released

June

An [environmental scan](#) is developed by released by CRISM to examine naloxone access and distribution across Canada

January

A [publication examining BC THN administration records](#) found that when naloxone was administered 9-1-1 was called 56% of the time. Where take home naloxone was administered, 1 or 2 ampoules were used in more than 60% of cases.

2018

December

In 2018 two studies are published examining the emergence of unusual presentations in overdose, beginning in 2016. Publications examine a case of [fentanyl-induced rigidity](#) as well as dyskinesia and other [atypical presentations](#).

May

Article examining the acceptability of Take Home Naloxone in emergency departments is [published in CJEM](#)

2016

August

[Evaluation report](#) released reviewing the Take Home Naloxone program - to July 2016

2015

September

[Evaluation report](#) released reviewing the Take Home Naloxone program - to March 2015

2014

July

[Evaluation of the THN pilot program](#) published in CMAJ Open - concluded program was easy to implement, empowering for clients, and responsible for reversing 85 ODs within first 20 months

FOR MORE INFOGRAPHICS VISIT  
[WWW.TOWARDTHEHEART.COM/INFOGRAPHICS](http://WWW.TOWARDTHEHEART.COM/INFOGRAPHICS)

November, 2019