BCCDC Nasal Naloxone Pilot Project

Information for BCCDC Take Home Naloxone Sites

November 2025

Background

The Province of BC has announced a short-term pilot project to distribute nasal naloxone kits through the BC Centre for Disease Control's (BCCDC) Take Home Naloxone (THN) program. The BCCDC has never offered nasal naloxone prior to this pilot project.

Select registered THN sites will receive a one-time shipment of nasal naloxone kits through the BCCDC THN program for distribution to eligible populations. Your local health authority has recommended that your site be included in this pilot project. Once the pilot project is complete (i.e., all kits are distributed), your site will not be able to order more nasal naloxone kits through the BCCDC THN program.

Please read below for important information about the BCCDC Nasal Naloxone Pilot Project, including:

- Status of the BCCDC Take Home Naloxone Program,
- Information about nasal naloxone,
- Eligibility criteria for individuals to receive a BCCDC nasal naloxone kit,
- Recommended education and training, and
- Data collection requirements.

BCCDC Take Home Naloxone Program

What is the BCCDC Take Home Naloxone Program?

The current BCCDC Take Home Naloxone (THN) program provides free injectable naloxone kits and training supplies for distribution by registered sites to individuals at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid drug poisoning or overdose (such as community members, family, or friends). Take home naloxone kits are not intended for occupational use (e.g., for use by staff in the workplace).

The distribution of injectable naloxone and supplies through the BCCDC THN program is not impacted by the nasal naloxone pilot project. **For injectable naloxone kits, please continue to order from the BCCDC as usual.** For more information on the BCCDC THN program, please visit www.towardtheheart.com/naloxone

BCCDC Nasal Naloxone Pilot Project

What is nasal naloxone?

Nasal naloxone is sprayed into the nose to reverse a suspected opioid overdose. For some people, nasal naloxone is easier and faster to use than injectable naloxone. However, for people with nasal -cavity damage or blockage, nasal naloxone may not work as intended.

Nasal naloxone is stronger than an intramuscular (syringe) dose. Like injectable naloxone, nasal naloxone can be given every 3 minutes until the person is breathing normally. Because of the stronger dose, people with opioid dependence may experience severe symptoms of withdrawal.



Nasal naloxone (pictured above) is sprayed into a nostril to reverse a suspected opioid overdose.

What is in the BCCDC nasal naloxone kits?

The BCCDC nasal naloxone kits contains two devices (2 doses) of nasal naloxone, a breathing mask, gloves, a printed SAVE ME card showing how to respond to an individual experiencing a suspected opioid overdose, and an overdose response information form for individuals to complete if they use a kit.

Nasal naloxone kits need to be stored properly to prevent exposure to extreme temperatures. Try to store nasal naloxone at room temperature (between 15-25°C). The BCCDC recommends that people **do not** store THN kits in cars or backpacks. Nasal naloxone can freeze at temperatures below -15°C. This means the device will not spray and the person will not receive the naloxone. Do not wait for the naloxone to thaw. Call 9-1-1 immediately, give breaths, and use injectable naloxone if available.



This is a picture of the black nasal naloxone kit. **Note** that the only difference between an injectable and nasal naloxone kit is the label circled in red above.



This picture shows the contents of the BCCDC nasal naloxone kit.

What are the eligibility criteria to receive a BCCDC nasal naloxone kit?

The BCCDC has a limited number of nasal naloxone kits to distribute across the province during this pilot project. Nasal naloxone kits provided by the BCCDC are not for occupational or staff use.

- Up until July 2025, the BCCDC nasal THN pilot was available to specific priority populations.
- As this pilot continues, the eligibility has been expanded to anyone who is at risk of experiencing or likely to witness and respond to an opioid overdose.

Nasal naloxone is available to purchase at a community pharmacy for anyone who does not meet the pilot project eligibility criteria.

What training is required?

Training is extremely important to learn to recognize and respond to a drug poisoning event. When a kit is given out, staff need to assess whether the individual understands how to identify and respond to a drug poisoning.

The BCCDC recommends basic drug poisoning prevention and response training, including:

1) How to recognize opioid poisoning,
2) How to respond using the SAVE ME Steps to Respond to a Suspected Opioid Poisoning, *and*
3) How to administer naloxone.

Here are some resources for anyone who might give or train someone to give nasal naloxone:

- Naloxone 101 Course (https://towardtheheart.com/naloxone-course)
    - Online, self-paced training tool. Best for a first training or annual refresher training. Completion time is approximately 60 minutes.
- NaloxoneTraining.com (https://www.naloxonetraining.com/)
    - Online, self-paced training tool. Best for quick refresher training. Completion time is approximately 10 minutes. Can support training needs in busy settings.
- SAVE ME Steps to Respond to a Suspected Opioid Poisoning (https://towardtheheart.com/resource/save-me-steps-to-respond-to-suspected-opioid-poisoning-colour/open)
    - Printable handout on how to respond to an opioid poisoning using SAVE ME steps.

Here are some additional resources for anyone who provides training for naloxone:

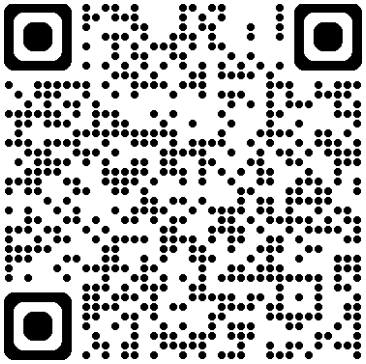
- Naloxone Training Key Takeaways Checklist (https://towardtheheart.com/resource/naloxone-training-key-takeaways/open)
    - This checklist provides guidance for trainers to ensure that key learning objectives are covered in each naloxone training session. This resource can also be used to help assess the knowledge of training participants prior to or following a training session.
- Participant Training Checklist (https://towardtheheart.com/resource/training-checklist-certificate/open)
    - This checklist provides a guidance for trainers to assess the knowledge of the participant following a naloxone training session.
- Take Home Naloxone Training Quiz (https://towardtheheart.com/resource/thn-pre-training-and-post-training-quiz/open)
    - A quick quiz for trainers and participants to test knowledge about drug poisoning recognition and response.

Additional training materials are available on the Toward the Heart website (https://towardtheheart.com/naloxone-training)

Are sites required to collect data?

Yes. Participating sites are asked to collect data about the distribution of nasal naloxone kits and who is accessing them. This data will support evaluation of the pilot project. The BCCDC requests that sites collect and return two forms:

1. **Overdose Response Information Form**
    - The overdose administration form is included inside every THN kit. Please assist clients with completing this form if a kit is reported as used.
2. **Nasal Naloxone Kit Distribution Reporting Form**
    - Sites are required to complete a distribution record when a **nasal naloxone kit** is given to an individual. A copy of the form was emailed to your site coordinator and is available to download at (https://towardtheheart.com/resource/nasal-naloxone-pilot-distribution-data-form/open)
    - You can also complete the form online by scanning the QR code below or visiting (https://tinyurl.com/4pavmyjw)



Email completed forms to naloxone@bccdc.ca or fax to 604-707-2516

Who can we contact if we have more questions?

More information about the pilot can be found at (www.towardtheheart.com/thn-sites)

For any questions related to the nasal naloxone pilot project, please contact naloxone@bccdc.ca

Regional Harm Reduction Coordinator contact information can be found at (https://towardtheheart.com/resource/regional-harm-reduction-coordinator-contacts/open)