Information For Registered Sites Participating in the BC Centre for Disease and Control (BCCDC) Take Home Naloxone (THN) Program

The BCCDC THN Program was developed in 2012 to provide life-saving training and naloxone kits to people at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid drug poisoning (overdose).

This information package includes:

- BCCDC THN Kit and contents
- Eligibility criteria for individuals to receive a BCCDC THN kit
- THN distribution considerations
- Recommended education and training
- THN site types
- THN Ordering Information
- Program reporting and,
- Additional resources for sites

BCCDC THN Kits and Contents

As of April 2026, the BCCDC now offers both intramuscular and nasal naloxone THN kit formulations and recommends that sites offer both formulations. More information on naloxone formulations can be found in *The BCCDC and FNHA Harm Reduction Training Manual* under the Naloxone Chapter.

Intramuscular (IM) THN kit contents	Nasal (IN) THN kit contents
• 1 x Black carrying case • 3 x Naloxone, 0.4 mg/mL, 1 mL ampoules in capped and labelled amber medication bottle • 3 x Vanish Point® 3 mL syringes • 3 x Alcohol prep pads • 1 x Pair of non-latex gloves • 1 x Individual breathing mask in pouch • 1 x SAVE ME steps instructional sticker • 1 x Overdose response information form* • Naloxone expiry sticker located on the outside of the kit	• 1 x Black carrying case • 2 x Naloxone, 4 mg/0.1mL, nasal devices • 1 x Pair of non-latex gloves • 1 x Individual breathing mask • 1 x SAVE ME steps instructional sticker • 1 x Overdose response information form* • Naloxone expiry sticker located on the outside of the kit





An overdose response information form is included in every BCCDC THN kit. Completing these forms helps inform the BCCDC program. Please encourage clients to complete the form when a kit is used.

Eligibility

Who can receive a BCCDC THN kit?

Both nasal and intramuscular kits are branded with the BCCDC logo and are available, at no cost, to people who are likely to witness and respond to an opioid overdose or drug poisoning, such as people who use substances, family, friends, and community members.

Proof (e.g., identification, personal information, demonstration of physical limitations, etc.) is not required when determining eligibility to receive a BCCDC THN kit.

Out Of Scope:

The BCCDC THN kits are **not** intended for occupational/staff use and should not be provided when the naloxone is intended for:

- **Health Care Providers**
  - Health Care employees seeking naloxone for use in the workplace should contact their employer or regional Health Authority. Harm Reduction Coordinator for procurement process in their region.
- **Occupational health & safety purposes (first aid kits)**
  - THN kits are not intended for occupational training or private training sessions. Please direct trainees requesting a kit for personal use to a local Take Home Naloxone site where kits and training will be provided at no cost.
- **Use by private business or other "for profit" locations**
  - Both intranasal and injectable formulations and supplies can be purchased from a community pharmacy.
- **Medical Offices**
  - Please direct patients to a nearby Take Home Naloxone site, which includes many community pharmacies. Pharmacies are expected to offer training or share training resources, according to guidance developed by the College of Pharmacists of BC.
- **Not-for-profit community-based organizations**
  - Organizations that work directly individuals at risk of opioid drug poisoning may be eligible to participate in our Facility Overdose Response Box (FORB) program.

Distribution Considerations:

While typically a single kit is provided to an individual, site staff may use their discretion and provide additional kits to those who may be at higher risk. Examples might include individuals who live in rural and remote areas where first response times are lengthy, or those collecting kits on behalf of others at risk.

The toxic drug poisoning emergency continues to have a disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities due to historic and ongoing harms caused by colonialism and systemic racism. Sites are encouraged to prioritize access to completely assembled nasal THN kits in ways that can help reduce these inequities and improve access.

Use this guidance tool to help people choose which type of naloxone is best for them:
Which Naloxone Should You Distribute?

Other distribution considerations:

- The best naloxone formulation is the one that a person is most likely and able to use.
- Sites encouraged to help people determine which type of naloxone works best for them.
- Nasal naloxone is an important option for people unable or unlikely to inject naloxone.
- Intramuscular naloxone has a faster onset, more consistent absorption, and can be given in smaller doses to prevent precipitated opioid withdrawal, compared to nasal naloxone.
- One dose of nasal is equivalent to approximately five doses of intramuscular naloxone, after accounting for differences how well each one is absorbed into the body.
- Giving more naloxone than needed to reverse an opioid poisoning can cause precipitated opioid withdrawal in people with physical opioid tolerance (i.e. people who use opioids daily). Precipitated withdrawal is intensely uncomfortable for the person experiencing it and can have negative effects (for example, the person may become aggressive or choose not to go with paramedics).
- Absorption and onset of nasal naloxone is more variable than intramuscular naloxone. Many factors can affect onset and absorption of nasal naloxone including nasal anatomy, frequent substance use snorting, nasal conditions and illness (e.g. mucus, rhinitis), and individual factors (e.g. metabolism).
- Encourage people to maintain their injection skills. Continue to support training and skills to inject intramuscular naloxone for people who are able and willing.
- People living in areas where emergency health services can take a while to respond, such as rural or remote areas, should be offered and trained in both formulations if they choose nasal naloxone, in case there are difficulties with absorption of nasal naloxone.
- Provide both formulations to individuals who request both.

Who may benefit from receiving nasal naloxone?

While many people may prefer using nasal spray, it may be particularly beneficial for some individuals. Priority populations who may benefit most from nasal naloxone include:

- People who have difficulty using syringes or opening glass ampoules because of for example:
- A physical disability, problems with vision, or hand injury
- People who may be responding to a drug poisoning while under the influence of substances, which may make syringe use more difficult
- People who may have difficulty following multiple steps to draw up and inject naloxone, such as people with a history of brain injury or learning differences

- People responding to drug poisoning in extremely cold temperatures, where bulky clothing or gloves can make syringe use more challenging
- People who are likely to be less familiar or comfortable using syringes, including youth and older adults

Training

What training is required?

Training is extremely important to learn how to recognize and respond to a drug poisoning event. When a THN 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 use either intramuscular or nasal naloxone:**

- **Naloxone 101 Course**
  - Online, self-paced training tool. Best for a first training or annual refresher training. Completion time is approximately 60 minutes.
- Naloxone Training Key Takeaways Checklist
  - 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
  - This checklist provides a guidance for trainers to assess the knowledge of the participant following a naloxone training session.
- Take Home Naloxone Training Quiz
  - A quick quiz for trainers and participants to test knowledge about drug poisoning recognition and response.
- **SAVE ME Steps to Respond to a Suspected Opioid Poisoning**
  - Printable handout on how to respond to an opioid poisoning using SAVE ME steps.
- ***Additional resources for trainers can be found here.***

Refresher training is recommended annually.

Here is a list of training resources for individuals:

All BCCDC training resources include information on **both intramuscular and nasal formulations**:

- Online Training Tool - http://www.naloxonetraining.app/
  - A quick, self-guided tool that can be used to support individuals receiving a THN kit
  - Suitable for refresher training

- Video: Save Me Steps to Save a Life - https://towardtheheart.com/resource/save-me-steps-to-save-a-life/open
    - Demonstrates how to recognize and respond to a drug poisoning
    - Can be downloaded from the link provided and for offline use
- Naloxone 101 Course (https://towardtheheart.com/naloxone-course)
    - Online, self-paced course.
    - Recommended for an initial training or annual refresher training. Completion time is approximately 60 minutes.
- ***Additional training resources for individuals can be found here***.

Site Types

- **Independent** sites order and receive kits/supplies for their site only directly from the BCCDC.
- **Primary** sites order and receive kits/supplies directly from the BCCDC on behalf of their own site, as well as 'Satellite' sites which are typically nearby.
    - Primary Sites:
        - Must be registered to the program and have submitted an application to the BCCDC using the New Site Registration Form
        - Must advise how many kits were transferred to which satellite site using the Kit Transfer Record
        - Must only transfer supplies to sites that are registered to the THN program, are elgible and within scope of the THN program
        - Must submit any completed *overdose administration forms* received at their site directly to the BCCDC at naloxone@bccdc.ca
- **Satellite** sites pick up kits from nearby Primary sites. Satellite sites do not order directly from the BCCDC.
    - Satellite sites:
        - Must submit an application to the BCCDC using the Satellite Site Registration Form
        - Must provide Primary Sites with adequate notice to order and receive supplies on their behalf
    - Must submit *overdose administration forms* received at their site directly to the BCCDC at naloxone@bccdc.ca

Ordering

Indepenedent and Primary sites should use the latest THN order form orders to replenish kits and supplies. Orders may be faxed to 604-707-2516 or emailed to naloxone@bccdc.ca The weekly order cut-off is 11:59 pm (end-of-day) every Wednesday. Orders received after this time will be processed the following week on a Thursday. Please allow 10 business days for delivery and plan ahead to avoid shortages at your site. Satellite sites must order through their primary sites.

Wallet cards that provide information on the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act (GSDOA) are available for ordering in batches of 50. We recommend ordering the wallet cards to provide in THN kits when given out and they can also be provided as a loose supply. For more information on the GSDOA visit here Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act

Responding to a Drug Poisoning Brochure in English is avaliable to order from the BCCDC naloxone program. This brochure is available to order for clients for training. Alternatively, a print-ready version can be found here.

More information on ordering can be found on the second page of the THN Order Form.

Site Contact Information

Please ensure the THN program is informed of changes to contact information at your site to avoid the requisition form from not being processed. Here is a Site Update Contact Form please email: naloxone@bccdc.ca for any site updates.

Program Reporting

Distribution data is an important way to evaluate the THN program. Registered THN sites will be contacted on an annual basis to complete a survey on the total number of kits given out over a two-week period. Sites will receive an invitation to participate with detailed instructions on how to report. More information on reporting can be found here.

1. The BCCDC requests that sites continue to also encourage the return of the **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 to respond

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

Additional Resources for Sites

www.towardtheheart.com

The BC Take Home Naloxone program provides extensive resources for site participating in the THN program, for health professional and for individuals at risk.

Sites Forms and Updates

This section of the Toward the Heart website is intended specifically for registered Take Home Naloxone sites. Please refer to this section of the website for important program updates and to access all program documents including the supply order form.

Provincial Harm Reduction Manual

The Harm Reduction Manual is a learning tool and reference guide. It includes best practice guidance for anyone providing services to people who use substances across BC. The manual is available online. It is organized into 13 sections and is updated regularly to ensure it stays current and useful for everyday practice.

Training and Resources

This section of the Toward the Heart website includes a training manual, teaching materials, videos, and posters which can be downloaded by your site.

THN Site Finder

The Site Finder is a search tool that shows all publicly listed Take Home Naloxone, Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention sites in British Columbia.

Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act Poster (Print-Ready)

Refer to the Training Manual to learn more about the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act. Wallet cards are available for ordering through the program to provide with THN kits.

Alerts for People Who Use Substances

This page contains important information about staying safe. Use this page for the latest on signing up for Toxic Drug and Public Health Alerts, as well as accessing overdose prevention and drug checking services in BC

SAVE ME Steps

Steps on how to respond to an opioid poisoning