

UBC Overdose Prevention and Response Program

December 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC Overdose Prevention and Response Program

Intent

In 2016, the Province of British Columbia declared a public health emergency due to a significant increase in drug-related overdoses and deaths, primarily driven by a toxic and unregulated supply of illicit drugs. Over the past eight years, more than 15,000 lives have been lost in B.C. to toxic drugs, with fentanyl—a potent synthetic opioid—found in the majority of these cases. Recognizing the critical need for action, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills convened a Post-Secondary Overdose Prevention and Response Steering Committee in May 2024. This committee identified three key objectives for the program including awareness, response and access to naloxone, a life-saving medication used to reverse opioid overdoses.

In alignment with these objectives, the UBC Overdose Prevention and Response Program is designed to guide the prevention of opioid overdoses by making naloxone readily available and easy to use across the Okanagan and Vancouver campuses. The program also aims to increase awareness of overdose risks, promote effective response procedures, and provide information on available support services. Through this initiative, UBC reaffirms its commitment to the health and safety of its community, ensuring that comprehensive and proactive safety measures are in place to address the ongoing opioid crisis.

Leadership and Governance

The program's leadership framework emphasizes strategic oversight, operational excellence, and collaboration across the university community. Guidance for the program is provided by an Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from the VP Students office, Student Housing and Community Services, Student Health & Wellbeing, Human Resources, Facilities, Safety and Risk Services, UBC Okanagan Campus Operations and Risk Management and central and unit Communications. This committee will be primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the program and for the regular review of any associated metrics and for the annual review of the program. The operational oversight for this program will align with the First Aid and AED programs as administered by UBCV Safety and Risk Services and UBCO Campus Operations and Risk Management.

Overdose Response

The first and most critical step in any suspected overdose situation is to call 9-1-1. This ensures that emergency responders are on the way without delay.

Following this, Campus Security should be contacted, as they often can be on scene faster than emergency responders and can provide critical interventions and manage the situation until emergency responders arrive.

Collaboration with local emergency services, wayfinding and signage ensure that responders are familiar with campus layouts and can efficiently navigate to those in need.

It should be noted that post-incident support is coordinated by Student Health & Wellbeing and Human Resources to ensure that those involved, including bystanders and responders, have access to essential mental health and support services. Depending on the nature of the incident support may also be provided through the Early Alert program.

Accessibility

Naloxone cabinets with publicly available naloxone are located where Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are installed and additionally in student residence building lobbies and commons blocks. This co-location strategy with AEDs maximizes visibility and ensures that life-saving resources are readily available in the event of an overdose. Locations of these devices can be found on the [UBC Vancouver Medical Response Station map](#), and [UBC-O Medical Response Station Map](#). See Appendix I for additional information.

Students can also source free naloxone kits at Student Health & Wellbeing Wellness Centre, Student Health Services, the Sexual Violence Prevention Office (SVPRO) and at Campus Security offices.

All BC residents can obtain naloxone kits, at no cost, from participating local pharmacies, on and off campus.

UBC Facilities, UBC Okanagan Campus Operations and Risk Management, and Student Housing and Community Services are responsible for the installation of naloxone cabinets on the walls, ensuring they are securely mounted, and that clear and consistent signage is prominently displayed near or above naloxone cabinets to help the campus community quickly locate the naloxone kits.

Campus Security on both campuses is equipped with nasal naloxone, and all security personnel will receive training annually on the use and care of naloxone. This ensures that responders are prepared to act swiftly and effectively in an emergency.

Safety and Risk Services and UBC Okanagan Campus Operations and Risk Management will work with campus partners to maintain the accessibility of naloxone kits co-located with AEDs across all its campuses. In addition, the teams will continue to assess and adjust kit placements and signage to meet the evolving needs of the campus community.

Consideration will be made to ensure access to naloxone and AEDs for events, particularly those involving alcohol or that are assessed to have potential elevated risks.

Outreach and Awareness – Communication Plan

Outreach and awareness initiatives prioritize educating the campus community about the risks of the toxic drug crisis and how to effectively respond to overdoses. A robust communications plan is critical towards disseminating information about overdose risks and naloxone use.

The plan promotes awareness of overdose prevention sites, virtual overdose prevention services (e.g., Lifeguard, Brave), supervised consumption services, and drug checking services available on campus or within the broader regional community.

Collaborations with student associations, advocacy groups, indigenous communities, and local health authorities strengthen UBC's outreach efforts, ensuring consistency with broader public health campaigns. The program also supports the distribution of intramuscular Take-Home Naloxone kits provided by Student Health & Wellbeing and provides information on nearby overdose prevention services.

The UBC Overdose Prevention and Response Program communication plan features a comprehensive and enhanced communication strategy focused on connecting the UBC community with tools and resources to ensure adherence to the provincial requirements, highlighting UBC's commitment to raising awareness and responding to overdoses. UBC central Communications, VP Students, Human Resources and SRS are responsible for collaborating in the development and implementation of the communication strategy across various channels ensuring UBC community (students, staff, and faculty), within a substance use health and harm reduction framework.

The key areas of focus will include:

- An audit: Audit existing messaging to standardize information across all platforms, align with provincial materials, and ensure that all printed and online materials communicate calling 9-1-1 in emergencies.
- Awareness of all resources available to access at UBC and within the community
- Education on the location of naloxone kits, available supports and services, the dangers of illicit drugs, overdose prevention, the importance of naloxone and naloxone training.
- Shared editorial calendar

The communications will also emphasize the legal protections under the Good Samaritan Act and the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act, assuring the community that they can assist in an overdose without fear of repercussions.

The communications strategy will be a phased approach. Phase 1 will focus on conducting and completing an audit of all communication assets to ensure adherence to provincial guidelines and standardized framing across platforms, as well as focusing on three messaging themes including:

- Naloxone kit locations and mapping
- Awareness of overdose signs and symptoms, and how to respond
- Unregulated drugs awareness within harm reduction framework

Phase 2 will focus on continued enhanced messaging of awareness, resources, education, and training.

Tactics to communicate include:

- Naloxone webpages (audience is UBC Community)
 - Campus Security website for UBCV and Health, Safety and Environment website for UBCO will be the hubs for Naloxone information. The information housed here will target student, faculty, staff and visitors.
 - Information will also be housed on student and faculty/staff facing webpages and will be linked to Campus Security UBCV or the Health, Safety and Environment website for UBCO
- Substance use health and harm reduction webpages (students)
 - [UBCV](#)
 - UBCO
- UBCV and UBCO Communications toolkits to be shared with campus communicators
- Naloxone cabinet and kit signage - see Appendix III
- Digital signage

Partnerships and Collaborations

UBC's Overdose Prevention and Response Program relies on strong partnerships to maximize its impact. UBC collaborates with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to ensure alignment with provincial guidelines.

Engagement with local health authorities, student associations, advocacy groups, and harm reduction organizations further enhances the program's effectiveness, enabling UBC to expand its reach and integrate its efforts with broader community initiatives.

Training

Training in overdose response is required for those who are expected to respond to emergency incidents as part of their work responsibilities. Education will be provided to those who need to recognize the signs of an overdose and take appropriate steps to contact emergency responders and if confident, to administer naloxone.

Unit	Certified Training	Orientation, Education and Instruction
UBC-V Housing		Residence Advisors Residence Life Managers Overnight Mobile Unit staff
Remaining SHCS		Facility Managers
UBC-O Housing		Residence Advisors Residence Life Managers
Remaining UBC-O	Campus Security, Student First Aid Team	Facility Managers
Athletics	Lifeguards Event First Responders	Facility Managers Front Desk Staff
Library		Front Desk Staff
First Nations Longhouse		Building Facility Manager Building Facility Assistant
Campus Security	Patrol Officers Security Supervisors	Security Managers

The training can be delivered in a variety of formats including, in person session or a blended model of on-line and in person. Training will include the practice of administration of nasal and/or intramuscular naloxone. This training is mandatory for all Campus Security first aid providers including applicable campus security staff on both campuses who are expected to administer naloxone when required. It is also anticipated that all event first responders, other first aid providers and lifeguards are also trained,

In Residence, education will be offered to the Overnight Mobile Unit staff, Residence Advisors, Residence Life Manager's and other front desk staff. This is to primarily ensure they can recognize the signs of an overdose and take appropriate steps to contact emergency responders. They will be offered training in the administration of intramuscular and nasal naloxone. If they are confident and comfortable, they can administer, as there are no effects to administering when it is not an overdose.

The training program will include raising awareness about the protections provided under the [Good Samaritan Act and the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#). These laws protect individuals from legal

repercussions when they assist in an overdose emergency, encouraging everyone to act without hesitation.

Student Health & Wellbeing has the ability to provide training and/or education to groups of faculty, staff or students and as a Train the Trainer program.

Program Maintenance and Sustainability

At UBCV, Student Housing and Community Services conducts monthly formal inspections of naloxone kits in residence buildings. All additional cabinets will be inspected formally on a monthly basis by Campus Security at UBCV and Health, Safety and Environment at UBCO. Informal inspections will be conducted more regularly by Campus Security and SHCS to ensure that the cabinets have not been accessed.

Cabinets will be replenished when deficiencies are identified or prior to naloxone expiry dates by Campus Security.

See Appendix II for the inspection checklist.

Any incidents involving the use, tampering, or depletion of kits must be reported to SRS (safety.risk@ubc.ca) for the UBC-V campus, or to HSE (HSE.ok@ubc.ca) for the UBC-O campus, and any missing or used kits will be replenished without delay. Decals will be added to each naloxone kit indicating where the public can call in the event a box is found empty.

SRS and Campus Operations and Risk Management will advocate and budget for purchase of naloxone kits and replacement cabinets recognizing that the kits have an approximate 18 month shelf life.

All units will be responsible for the cost associated with training and all units will budget for related communications materials.

Monitoring and Evaluation

An annual meeting of the Advisory Committee will be scheduled by SRS and UBCO Campus Operations and Risk Management to evaluate the program's effectiveness and identify opportunities for efficiency.

Feedback may be sought from students, staff, and faculty to inform ongoing adjustments to the program. This input is important for refining the program to better meet the needs of the campus community.

As part of the program's ongoing management, SRS, in collaboration with UBCO Campus Operations and Risk Management, is also responsible for maintaining and updating program documentation,

including the Overdose Prevention and Response Program document, procedures, and records related to naloxone kit placements and incidents.

The findings from these evaluations are to be reported to the university's leadership and shared with relevant stakeholders. These reports provide insights into the program's successes and challenges, guiding future efforts to enhance overdose prevention and response at UBC.

Community members are encouraged to contact Safety and Risk Services (Vancouver), Campus Operations and Risk Management (Okanagan), or their respective Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees with any questions or concerns. This approach ensures the program remains aligned with the needs of the UBC community while maintaining high standards of safety.

Appendix I

Nasal Naloxone Distribution & Maintenance

Locations

250 cabinets and 1000 doses were allocated by the BC Government to UBC in August 2024. Each cabinet contains a kit with 2 doses.

Cabinets	AED Locations	In Residence	TOTAL ALLOCATION	TOTAL INSTALL
UBCV	139	70	217	211
UBCO	13 + 5	15	33	28
TOTAL	157	85	250	239

Priority areas for installation:

- Residences - cabinet installations in each residence building lobby and adjacent to AED locations in commons blocks
- Campus AED locations- i.e., visible 'medical response stations'
- High student traffic locations – NEST, libraries etc.
- Each campus to consider retaining cabinets/doses in storage/inventory for replacement/damage

Location considerations/best practices for installation:

- Indoor public locations/high visibility, entrances/foyers/Easily identifiable/student focused
- Proximal to front line service employees (i.e., in view of public services)
- Tamper-Proof stickers

Appendix II

UBC Monthly Naloxone Kit Inspection Checklist			
BUILDING		CABINET#	
Date:		Time:	Inspector name:
#	Yes	No	Part A: Visual Cabinet Inspection
1			No visible damage to cabinet
2			Cabinet is clearly visible
3			Cabinet and Naloxone kit access is unobstructed
4			Tamper evident sticker is intact (If no, complete Part B below)

Conduct a full inspection if the tamper-evident sticker is broken or removed, or when placing a new naloxone kit in the cabinet.

#	Yes	No	Part B: Full Cabinet and Kit Inspection
1			Alarm sounds when cabinet is opened
2			Alarm light flashes when cabinet is opened
3			1 Naloxone kit case - present and undamaged
4			1 CPR face shield - present and unused
5			1 Pair of non-latex gloves - present and unused
6			1 SAVE ME Instructional Insert - Present, legible, and undamaged
7			2 Naloxone Nasal Spray - Present, untampered, and not expired

Comments / Actions taken:

Appendix III

Naloxone Kit



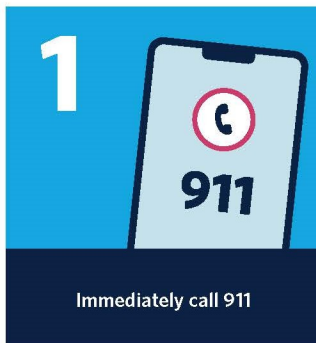
Naloxone is a fast-acting medication used to temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. It will not cause harm to a person who is not experiencing an overdose. Use it for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose.



The signs of an overdose:

- Not moving/unresponsive
- Choking or snoring sounds
- Blue or grey lips and fingernails
- Slow or no breathing
- Tiny pupils
- Cold and clammy skin

Responding to an overdose? Don't wait:



You will not get in trouble with UBC, Student Housing, the police, or Citizenship and Immigration Canada for calling 911. You are protected by the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act—even if you have a small amount of substances on you.

About this naloxone cabinet:

Alarm

Removing the naloxone triggers an alarm. This alarm does not notify UBC, Student Housing or emergency services. Call 911, no matter what.

Replacement

If naloxone is missing or this cabinet has been tampered with, please contact Campus Security (604 822 2222) to let them know.

Learn more:

Substance use health and harm reduction—including how to get your free, personal naloxone kit: bit.ly/substance-use-health

Overdose prevention and response: respondtooverdose.gov.bc.ca

security.ubc.ca/naloxone

