

Responding to an opioid overdose during COVID-19

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COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) is spread through droplets from an infected person who coughs or sneezes. Through these droplets, it can spread to people who you spend a lot of time with (close contacts) such as household members or roommates. If someone with COVID-19 coughs on a surface, and you touch that surface and then touch your eyes, mouth or nose with an unwashed hand, the virus could infect you. COVID-19 can also be spread through aerosols.

Public Health Ontario has confirmed giving intranasal naloxone does not generate aerosols and can be used if you suspect an opioid overdose. Here are some things to remember when giving naloxone to a person who has overdosed:

- ✓ Follow the instruction sheet provided in the naloxone kit and call 9-1-1 if the person is unresponsive.
- ✓ Use the rubber gloves provided in the naloxone kit to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- ✓ Give chest compressions if you are trained and feel comfortable. Chest compressions alone do not generate aerosols.
- ✗ **DO NOT** provide rescue breathing (mouth to mouth) when responding to an overdose.



Please remember to never share equipment, wash your hands frequently and practice physical distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Where to get naloxone:

Naloxone kits are available at Southwestern Public Health, most pharmacies and some other locations in Oxford, Elgin and the City of St. Thomas. For more information and locations contact:

1-800-922-0096

www.swpublichealth.ca

www.ontario.ca/page/where-get-free-naloxone-kit