

REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: COB-RA, COF-RA, IGN, IGO-RA, JPC-RA, JPD-RB
Responsible Office: Office of the School System Medical Officer

Emergency Care for Individuals Experiencing Symptoms of Opioid Overdose

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to provide emergency medical care to any individual experiencing symptoms of, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, a possible opioid overdose, including the administration of opioid-reversal medications

To establish procedures for MCPS to obtain and store naloxone or other opioid overdose reversal medication, and to train and authorize certain persons to administer it to students or other individuals on MCPS property

II. BACKGROUND

Opioid overdose and deaths are an epidemic nationally and in the state of Maryland. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) recognize the role of schools and School Health Montgomery County Department of School Health Services (SHS) in responding to this epidemic. The Maryland “Start Talking Maryland Act,” effective July 1, 2017, requires public schools to obtain and store naloxone or other opioid overdose reversal medication, and to train and authorize certain persons to administer it to students or other individuals on school grounds.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. *Opioids* are substances that contain opium or opium derivatives that are legally prescribed for pain relief or treatment of an opioid use disorder. They may come in a variety of forms and may also be manufactured and sold illegally for nonprescription use.

- B. *Opioid overdose* occurs when a toxic amount of an opioid, including when mixed with other substances, overwhelms the body's ability to process it. Opioid overdose can result in life-threatening symptoms, including respiratory depression.
- C. *Opioid reversal medications* (e.g., naloxone) work temporarily to counteract the toxic effects of opioid overdose. Naloxone is considered safe to administer even if symptoms are not due to an opioid overdose, or if an individual is unconscious. Naloxone is most often administered via single-use intranasal spray, but can also be administered via injectable routes. Naloxone should be administered if an opioid overdose is reasonably suspected.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Training

1. All MCPS school staff and other designated MCPS staff members are required to complete the *Opioid Awareness and Response* training annually. It is available on Professional Development Online (PDO).
2. Each school principal, in consultation with the school community health nurse (SCHN), is responsible for identifying at least three school-based employees to receive additional formal hands-on training for naloxone administration.
3. Principals are encouraged to identify staff who are –
 - (1) likely to attend school-sponsored and after-school activities and events; and,
 - (2) when possible, trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation is recommended but not required.
4. Employee agreement to be trained to administer naloxone is voluntary.
5. Hands-on training will be provided by the SCHN assigned to each school or another individual, as designated by DHHS or the MCPS Office of the School System Medical Officer. Documentation of training and training records will be maintained by school health-services staff, according to DHHS and MCPS procedures.
6. Training standards include, but are not limited to, recognition of signs and symptoms of opioid overdose, administration of naloxone by nasal spray,

emergency follow-up procedures, and documentation requirements and procedures.

B. Stocking Naloxone in MCPS Buildings

1. MCPS receives naloxone either from DHHS through the Maryland Overdose Response Program, or directly from the Maryland Overdose Response Program.
2. In collaboration with DHHS, MCPS will establish procedures for documenting –
 - a) naloxone stock, including locations and expiration dates;
 - b) routine inspection of stock, to ensure doses are viable and within expiration date for use;
 - c) replacement of stock;
 - d) documentation of inventory; and
 - e) supervisory individuals designated for self-carry.
3. Principals, in consultation with the SCHN, will identify appropriate and strategic locations for storing naloxone, in addition to the school health suite in each school building (e.g., along with other emergency medical equipment or supplies).

C. Emergency Administration of Naloxone During a Suspected Overdose

1. Symptoms of a possible opioid overdose

If a person is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose related to any of the following symptoms, naloxone should be administered, and 911 contacted immediately:

- a) Unconsciousness;
- b) Very small pupils;

- c) Very slow, shallow, or no breathing;
- d) Vomiting;
- e) Inability to speak;
- f) Faint or irregular heartbeat;
- g) Limp arms or legs;
- h) Pale or clammy skin; and/or
- i) Blue/purple lips or fingernails.

2. Personnel

- a) If an opioid overdose is suspected, and a physician or Emergency Medical Services are not immediately available, the SCHN or school health room technician (SHRT) should administer naloxone to the person experiencing the suspected overdose.
- b) If a school site does not have an SCHN, or if the SCHN and SHRT are not immediately available, a trained volunteer may administer naloxone.

3. Documentation

- a) Documentation of naloxone administration will be completed by the SCHN, in consultation with the principal.
- b) All naloxone administrations will be reported in accordance with MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Incident Reporting*, and Maryland Department of Health guidelines.

4. Replacement of stock inventory

MCPS and DHHS will work collaboratively to replace used naloxone kits immediately.

D. Parent/Guardian Notification

1. Whenever naloxone is used on MCPS property for a student reasonably suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose, the parents/guardians of the student to whom naloxone was administered will be notified immediately.
2. MCPS will develop and implement a method for notifying parents/guardians of students about this regulation annually.

E. Personally Obtained Naloxone

1. MCPS staff members may choose to complete training independently and carry naloxone on MCPS property. Staff should be aware of their school's Emergency Care Plan, which outlines specific procedures for emergency treatment of the ill and/or injured, as set forth in MCPS Regulation, EBJ-RA, *Emergency Care and First Aid in Schools*.
2. Students who carry naloxone on MCPS property and during school-sponsored activities are not subject to disciplinary action solely for carrying naloxone.
3. Students are strongly encouraged to seek the assistance of DHHS or MCPS personnel, and/or contact 911, in the event of a suspected opioid overdose.

F. Reasonable and Free Assistance or Aid

As set forth in Maryland law, an individual who provides assistance or medical aid to a victim at the scene of an emergency is not civilly liable for any act or omission if –

1. the assistance or aid is provided in a reasonably prudent manner;
2. the assistance or aid is provided without fee or other compensation; and
3. the individual relinquishes care of the victim when someone who is licensed or certified by the state of Maryland to provide medical care or services becomes available to take responsibility.
4. Persons who, in good faith, administer personally obtained naloxone in lieu of the school stock naloxone are covered by the immunity protections in Maryland Code, Health-General Article §13-3108 (a).

G. Additional Information

Additional guidance for support of students or employees requiring assistance for substance use is detailed in Board Policy IGN, *Preventing Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse in Montgomery County Public Schools*, and MCPS Regulation IGO-RA, *Guidelines for Incidents of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse Involving Students*.

Related Source: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article §5-518 and §5-522(b), Education Article, §4-106, §7-426 et seq, and §7-426.5, Health-General Article §5-603, §5-629, §13-3108(a); *Code of Maryland Regulations* 13A.05.05.05-.15

Regulation History: New regulation, May 1, 2023.

MCPS NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) prohibits illegal discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure/parental status, marital status, age, ability (cognitive, social/emotional, and physical), poverty and socioeconomic status, language, or other legally or constitutionally protected attributes or affiliations. Discrimination undermines our community's long-standing efforts to create, foster, and promote equity, inclusion, and acceptance for all. The Board prohibits the use of language and/or the display of images and symbols that promote hate and can be reasonably expected to cause substantial disruption to school or district operations or activities. For more information, please review Montgomery County Board of Education Policy ACA, *Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency*. This Policy affirms the Board's belief that each and every student matters, and in particular, that educational outcomes should never be predictable by any individual's actual or perceived personal characteristics. The Policy also recognizes that equity requires proactive steps to identify and redress implicit biases, practices that have an unjustified disparate impact, and structural and institutional barriers that impede equality of educational or employment opportunities. MCPS also provides equal access to the Boy/Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups.**

For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS students*	For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS staff*
Director of Student Welfare and Compliance Office of District Operations Student Welfare and Compliance 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 55, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 SWC@mcpsmd.org	Human Resource Compliance Officer Office of Human Resources and Development Department of Compliance and Investigations 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2500, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 DCI@mcpsmd.org
For student requests for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	For staff requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 Coordinator Office of Academic Officer Resolution and Compliance Unit 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 208, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3230 RACU@mcpsmd.org	ADA Compliance Coordinator Office of Human Resources and Development Department of Compliance and Investigations 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2500, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 DCI@mcpsmd.org
For inquiries or complaints about sex discrimination under Title IX, including sexual harassment, against students or staff*	
Title IX Coordinator Office of District Operations Student Welfare and Compliance 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 55, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 TitleIX@mcpsmd.org	

*Discrimination complaints may be filed with other agencies, such as the following: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Baltimore Field Office, GH Fallon Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite 1432, Baltimore, MD 21201, 1-800-669-4000, 1-800-669-6820 (TTY); Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR), William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-767-8600, 1-800-637-6247, mCCR@maryland.gov; or U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 515, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 1-800-421-3481, 1-800-877-8339 (TDD), OCR@ed.gov, or www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html.

**This notification complies with the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.

This document is available, upon request, in languages other than English and in an alternate format under the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, by contacting the MCPS Office of Communications at 240-740-2837, 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay), or PIO@mcpsmd.org. Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech transliteration may contact the MCPS Office of Interpreting Services at 240-740-1800, 301-637-2958 (VP) mcpsinterpretingservices@mcpsmd.org, or MCPSInterpretingServices@mcpsmd.org.