



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND FACTS ABOUT DHS OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DHS OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM?

The purpose of the program is to give homeless shelter staff the information and resources they need to save someone's life when they encounter a person who is experiencing a drug overdose.

Participation in the program is voluntary – this is meant for staff members who want to be prepared to help when a drug overdose occurs.

This FAQ provides information relevant to all types of drug overdose – alcohol, K2, crack cocaine—but the main focus of the prevention program is drugs in the Opioid Family – prescription pain killers, Heroin, Fentanyl, morphine, and oxycodone.

## WHY IS DHS STARTING THIS PROGRAM NOW?

While death from drugs like heroin is not a new problem in the District, it has become a more lethal one. From 2014 to 2017 fatal opioid overdoses in the District increased 236 percent. Over the past year **184 overdoses took place at DHS emergency and low-barrier homeless shelters**. While not all of these overdoses resulted in death – far too many did, especially in light of available life-saving interventions.

Naloxone –often referred to by the brand name Narcan—is a non-addictive, life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in time. Calling 911 should always be the first response for helping someone who is experiencing an overdose, but there are other things –like administer Narcan/Naloxone—that staff can do while waiting for emergency personnel.

## WHAT IS THE DHS OVERDOSE PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM?

DHS has partnered with DC Health to join the existing DC Health Naloxone Pilot Program (click [HERE](#) for the Standard Operating Procedure for DC Health's Naloxone Pilot Program). There are four components of the DHS Overdose Prevention Pilot Program:

- a. Training** – DHS will offer all staff in participating shelters the opportunity to take the DC Health Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone training;
- b. Access to Narcan/Naloxone** – DHS will pay for Narcan/Naloxone nasal kits to be available at participating shelters. Staff must first take the DC Health Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone training in order to administer Narcan/Naloxone.
- c. Reporting** – DHS will track who has received training and will keep detailed records on each overdose that occurs at participating shelters and how many times Narcan/Naloxone was administered. Click [HERE](#) to submit an Overdose Report Form.
- d. Staff Support** – DHS will continuously check-in with shelter staff to make sure they have the tools needed to respond when a drug overdose occurs.



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## WHICH SHELTERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DHS OVERDOSE PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM?

DHS is launching the pilot program at DHS-funded shelters with the highest incidence of overdose, including: prevention program is drugs in the Opioid Family – prescription pain killers, Heroin, Fentanyl, morphine, and oxycodone.

- **801 East Shelter:** 2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE
- **New York Avenue Shelter:** 1355 New York Avenue, NE
- **Adams Place Shelter & Drop-In Center:** 2210 Adams Place, NE
- **Harriet Tubman Shelter & Day Center:** 1900 Massachusetts Ave SE, Bldg. 27
- **Patricia Handy Place for Women:** 810 5th St. NW
- **Nativity Shelter for Women:** 6010 Georgia Ave., NW

There may be opportunities to expand to other locations depending on the results of the pilot.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM?

DHS is offering training to any shelter staff and security staff working at shelters who would like to save lives. DHS is looking for capable leaders who want to be able to effectively and quickly respond in cases of opioid-related overdoses. The training is required for anyone who wants to be able to administer the life-saving drug Narcan/Naloxone. Narcan/Naloxone will only be made available at participating shelters, see question #4.

## WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE FEEDBACK ABOUT THE DHS OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM?

If you have feedback or concerns about the DHS Overdose Prevention Program please call **202.759.1907** or email [FSA.response@dc.gov](mailto:FSA.response@dc.gov).