

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: JEC, JEC-RA, JECB

Responsible Office: OFFICE OF STUDENT AND SYSTEMIC SUPPORTS

STORAGE AND USE OF NALOXONE OR OTHER OVERDOSE- REVERSING MEDICATION

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for schools to obtain and safely store naloxone. To authorize school nurses, school health services staff, other school staff, and approved students to administer naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication to a student or other person on school property who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose.

B. BACKGROUND

Drug overdoses are a serious public health challenge in Maryland. The total number of overdose deaths has increased significantly since 2010 driven in recent years by the opioid epidemic. According to the Maryland Department of Health 2023 report, *Drug and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland*, 87 percent of all intoxication deaths in the State were opioid related. Fentanyl-related deaths continue to drive opioid related deaths in 2023 and were involved in about 8 out of 10 intoxicant deaths. In an effort to help combat the opioid problem in Maryland, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) has established the following procedures.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Opioid*** – a class of generally addictive substances that includes illegal drugs such as heroin, and prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Demerol, Percocet, codeine, and morphine. An opioid binds to the opioid receptors in the body and acts on the nervous system to relieve pain.
2. ***Opioid Overdose*** – a lethal or toxic amount of an opioid alone or mixed with another opioid, drug, or substance. The lethal or toxic dose overwhelms the body's ability to function and can suppress the urge to breathe. Unusually slow or shallow breathing can be fatal, if not treated quickly, making an opioid overdose a medical emergency. Signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose include snoring or gurgling noises; pupillary constriction; blue-tinged lips and fingertips; pale, gray, or clammy skin; slow, shallow, or absent breathing; slow, irregular, or absent heartbeat; a reduced

level of consciousness; unconsciousness or unresponsiveness; seizure; and reduced muscle tone.

3. ***Overdose-reversing medication*** – an emergency medication, such as naloxone (commonly referred to as Narcan), that quickly restores respirations during an opioid overdose. An overdose-reversing medication is an opioid antagonist that temporarily reverses and blocks the effects of an opioid overdose by binding to the opioid receptors in the body.

D. PROCEDURES

1. In accordance with school health guidelines and State laws, school nurses, school health services personnel, and other school staff are authorized to administer naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication, in accordance with the following procedures, to a student or other person on school property who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose.
2. In accordance with Policy JECB and this regulation, approved students are authorized to administer naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication, in accordance with the following procedures, to a student or other person on school property who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose.
3. At the beginning of each school year, AACPS shall notify parents/guardians of the availability of naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication at each school.
4. **Staff Training**
 - a. School nurses and other health services personnel shall receive training in the use of overdose-reversing medication such as naloxone.
 - b. Other AACPS school staff may, but are not required to, receive training in the use of overdose-reversing medication such as naloxone.
5. **Storage of Medication**
 - a. The Chief Student and Systemic Supports Officer or Chief Student and Systemic Supports Officer's designee, in collaboration with the Anne Arundel County Health Department, shall ensure that:
 - i. Each school obtains naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication; and
 - ii. Naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication is replaced, as needed.

- b. Naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication shall be stored in the school health room in accordance with school health guidelines.

6. Administration of Medication

- a. The administration of naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication shall be in accordance with school health guidelines and State laws.
- b. In accordance with school health guidelines and State laws, the Chief Student and Systemic Supports Officer or Chief Student and Systemics Supports Officer’s designee, in collaboration with the County Health Department, shall ensure that each school health room has a signed physician order for naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication.
- c. Only school nurses, other health services personnel, school staff who have received training in the use of overdose-reversing medication, or authorized students may administer naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication.
- d. Administration of naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication shall be in accordance with school health guidelines and State laws and regulations.

7. Personally Obtained Naloxone

- a. AACPS staff may choose to independently complete training in the use of overdose-reversing medication and carry naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication on AACPS property.
- b. The Chief Student and Systemic Supports Officer or the Chief Student and Systemic Supports Officer’s designee may authorize students to carry and administer naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication to someone who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose.
 - i. A student shall seek approval to carry and administer naloxone and other overdose-reversing medication by submitting the *Personal Naloxone Use Agreement* form to the school nurse.
 - ii. Students who carry naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication on AACPS property and during school-sponsored activities are not subject to disciplinary action solely for carrying naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication.
- c. Students shall seek assistance from AACPS staff or contact 911 in the event of a suspected opioid overdose.

8. Nothing in this regulation or accompanying policy shall be construed to prohibit a trained person present in the school, including a student, from administering naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication in an emergency situation.

9. In accordance with State law, except for any willful or grossly negligent act, any of the following individuals who respond in good faith to the overdose emergency of a student in accordance with the law may not be held personally liable for any act or omission in the course of responding to the emergency:
 - a. A school nurse;

 - b. Other school health services personnel who are licensed or certified to practice a health occupation under the Health Occupations Article; or

 - c. Other school personnel.

Regulation History: Issued 04/18/18; Revised 05/06/26

Note Previous Regulation History: None

Legal Reference: Section 7-426.5 of the Education Article