

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting the Columbia County Naloxone Policy )  
 ) Order No. 48-2023

WHEREAS, in order to address the risk of overdose from opioid exposure the County desires to give elected officials, employees, and volunteers the option to carry Naloxone, a medication that can be used to reverse depressed breathing and improve alertness, displacing opiates from the receptors in the brain that control the central nervous system; and

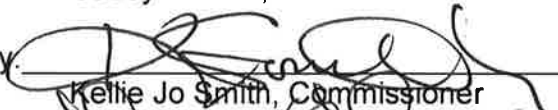
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County to adopt a policy setting forth the terms and conditions associated with carrying and administering Naloxone by County elected officials, employees, and volunteers;


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Columbia County Naloxone Policy, which is attached hereto, and incorporated herein, is hereby adopted.

Dated this 20 day of September, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Casey Garrett, Chair

By:   
Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner

By:   
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By:   
Office of County Counsel

## COLUMBIA COUNTY

NALOXONE POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE:

PURPOSE and SCOPE

Intranasal Naloxone (NARCAN) may be used by employees on person(s) suspected of experiencing opiate overdose, including overdose due to unintentional exposure. It is the Policy of Columbia County that employees who administer Naloxone shall be properly trained in its use and deployment in accordance with protocols specified by the Public Health Department and Oregon Health Authority. This Policy applies to County elected officials, employees and volunteers ("employees"), except for the Sheriff's Office.

AUTHORITY

HB 4124; ORS 689.681

PROCEDURESA. Definitions

1. Opiate: A narcotic drug that contains opium, any chemical derivative of opium or any synthetic or semisynthetic drug with opium-like effects. Opiates are narcotic sedatives that depress activity in the central nervous system; these will reduce pain, induce sleep and in overdose will cause people to stop breathing. Employees may encounter opiates in the form of morphine, methadone, codeine, heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone and hydrocodone.
2. Opiate overdose: A medical condition that causes depressed consciousness and mental functioning, decreased movement, depressed respiratory function and the impairment of the vital functions as a result of ingesting opiates in an amount larger than can be physically tolerated.
3. Naloxone: Medication that can be used to reverse depressed breathing and improve alertness; specifically, it displaces opiates from the receptors in the brain that control the central nervous system and respiratory system. It is marketed as a nasal spray under various trademarks, including NARCAN.

## B. Administration of Opiate Overdose Medication.

1. Employees may administer opiate overdose medication in accordance with protocols specified by the Oregon Health Authority. Authority to administer opiate medication is dependent upon receipt of training and continued compliance with this Policy.
2. Employees shall request authorization to carry Naloxone from a supervisor so that training can be arranged before carrying Naloxone.

3. Once eligible to administer Naloxone, employees have the discretion to administer or not administer Naloxone to person's experiencing or suspected of experiencing opiate overdose. There is no legal obligation to administer Naloxone. However, employees of the Department of Community Justice shall comply with Department policy related to a duty to administer Naloxone or other medical aid.
4. An employee may administer Naloxone to a person who appears to be experiencing an opiate overdose. Each employee must use his or her own reasonable judgment to determine whether it appears a person is experiencing an opiate overdose. An employee acting in good faith is immune from civil liability for any act or omission committed during administration of Naloxone provided such act does not constitute wanton misconduct.
5. Upon administration of Naloxone, an employee shall treat the administration as a medical emergency and shall follow these steps:
  - a) Confirm emergency personnel are responding;
  - b) Maintain universal precautions;
  - c) Perform patient assessment;
  - d) Determine responsiveness;
  - e) Update dispatch of potential overdose state;
  - f) Follow Naloxone use protocol;
  - g) Immediately notify responding emergency medical personnel that Naloxone has been administered; and
  - h) Notify a Supervisor (see Section E of this policy).
  - i) Employees of the Department of Community Justice shall comply with department policy related to duties to render medical aid and reporting.

C. Storage of Opioid Medication and Kits

1. Naloxone nasal spray kits will be stored in approved locations in County facilities and subject to availability will be available for employees to carry.
2. Naloxone kits will contain at a minimum: gloves, mask, and Naloxone.
3. Naloxone kits shall not be stored in vehicles due to the risk of excessive temperature fluctuations. Employees may keep kits in vehicles under temperature control at between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C) or outside of this range for brief periods of time if vehicle temperatures are not expected to be below 41°F or above 104°F. Do not freeze or expose to excessive heat above 104°F (40°C). Protect from light.

D. Naloxone User Responsibilities

1. Employees shall handle, store and administer the medication consistent with their training.
2. Any expired or damaged Naloxone should be removed from service and returned to the Public Health Department.
3. The Public Health Department is responsible for tracking, storage, maintenance, and replacement of Naloxone kits.

E. Naloxone Medication Reporting

1. Any employee who administers Naloxone shall document the administration in detail using the County Incident Reporting Form. Once completed the form shall be provided to a Supervisor. The Supervisor shall notify the Department Director, Human Resources Director, and Public Health Director.
2. When Naloxone is administered the administering employee shall provide information to paramedics, as requested, including the number of doses administered.
3. Additionally, an employee who administers Naloxone shall notify a Supervisor and use the County Incident Reporting Form to document the details of the application, including a description of any evidence of drug use (narcotics, drug paraphernalia, etc.), any other observations at the scene and witness statements.

F. Naloxone Training

1. Supervisors shall ensure initial and refresher training is provided to employees who choose to administer Naloxone. Refresher training should be completed every 1-2 years or as otherwise directed by the Public Health Department.
2. Training should be coordinated with the Columbia County Public Health Department or Oregon Health Authority.
3. Refresher training will take place during employees' CPR, First Aid/AED recertification courses or as otherwise deemed appropriate.