

Naloxone (Narcan) Guidance for New York City Isolation and Quarantine Hotels During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Opioid overdose deaths remain a critical issue during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. People isolating or quarantining in hotels could be at an increased risk of opioid overdose as a result of:

- Being displaced from their normal surroundings
- Isolation from social networks
- Increased stress
- Changes in drug tolerance due to shifts in access to medication or drugs

Naloxone is a safe medication that can save someone’s life by reversing the effects of an opioid overdose. It only works on opioids, such as heroin, prescription painkillers and fentanyl, but it is safe to use even if opioids are not present. Naloxone is available to anyone who wants it.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) is advising that all isolation and quarantine hotels have Overdose Rescue Kits with naloxone on-site in case of opioid-related emergencies. The following guidance is intended for government agency and contracted provider staff who are managing or offering services at isolation and quarantine hotels.

Overdose Rescue Kits in Isolation and Quarantine Hotels

What is in an Overdose Rescue Kit?

Each kit from the NYC Health Department contains two non-latex gloves, two doses of naloxone nasal spray, an insert with instructions in Spanish and English about responding to an overdose, and a face shield to perform rescue breathing.



Where should Overdose Rescue Kits be kept?

Place one kit in a prominent location on every floor where guests are isolating or quarantining. Additional kits can be kept with staff or at the front desk. Place kits in the same location on every floor (for example, next to elevators or stairs, near automated external defibrillators). Notify all staff and guests where naloxone kits can be found. Keep instructions with kits, and post a copy of the one-page instruction sheet near the kits.

Who can use a naloxone kit?

Anyone — including medical support staff, other program staff and guests — can use a naloxone kit to respond to an opioid overdose.

What training is needed to administer naloxone?

When delivering the naloxone kits, NYC Health Department couriers will train any on-site medical staff or other support staff. Each naloxone kit is accompanied by an additional one-page instruction sheet that summarizes the steps for responding to an overdose during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the end of their shift, staff can briefly train incoming coworkers or instruct them to review the instruction sheet. There is no requirement to train guests, but instructions for use should be kept with the kits. Naloxone is safe and easy to use.

What should my agency do if we need more naloxone kits?

Email naloxone@health.nyc.gov to notify the NYC Health Department if naloxone is used, or to request additional kits.

What liability protection is available to people who use naloxone?

Under [Public Health Law Section 3309](#), anyone who responds to an overdose has protection against civil, criminal and administrative liability, as long as they are acting reasonably and in good faith. The [New York State 911 Good Samaritan Law](#) also offers protection from prosecution to both the person who calls 911 and the individual who overdosed for possession of up to 8 ounces of narcotics, alcohol (for underage drinkers), cannabis (any amount), paraphernalia offenses and any sales offenses. It does not provide explicit legal protections for probation or parole violations, violations for open warrants or issues related to immigration or child welfare.

If you have any questions, please email naloxone@health.nyc.gov. For more information, visit nyc.gov/health and search for [naloxone](#).

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves.

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