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| **Understanding an opioid overdose**Too much of an opioid affects parts of the brain that drive breathing. As a result, breathing can become very slow or may stop. Learn more about signs of an opioid overdose [**here**](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/heroin-opioids/family.aspx).**Reversing overdose with Narcan®**[Narcan® (Naloxone)](https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment/naloxone) temporarily blocks or reverses the effects of opioids. In most cases the effect is immediate (within 30 to 40 seconds), blocking the effects of the overdose and allowing the person to breathe again. This gives time to seek emergency medical assistance. Its use is supported by many organizations, including the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the World Health Organization. Narcan® has no potential for abuse and will have no effect if accidentally administered or self-administered (in the case of a child).Narcan® can be obtained by speaking to your medical provider.You can also get Narcan® through Project HOPE, a State of Alaska program, free of charge.**Project HOPE program offers Narcan® to people at risk of overdose**People at risk from opioid overdose can receive a Project HOPE Overdose Response Kit. Kits include:* + Two doses of Narcan® (Naloxone), a drug that temporarily blocks or reverses the effects of opioids
	+ Sanitary gloves
	+ Brochure on how to give Narcan® to someone
	+ Carrying case

The kits are available free of charge at the location shown in the map (to the right) or on [**this PDF** describing where Project HOPE is available](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Documents/heroin-opioids/WhereToGetProjectHOPEKitsList.pdf). Participating programs will teach you how to recognize the signs of an overdose and use the kit.**Project HOPE Evaluation forms**If you participated in Project HOPE and were asked to submit an evaluation form,visit [**this page.**](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/heroin-opioids/HOPEforms.aspx) Your timely response helps us measure.If you have additional questions about Project HOPE, email: ProjectHOPE@alaska.gov.**Offer Project HOPE Narcan® kits in your community**The State of Alaska’s Department of Health and Social Services is working with community organizations to distribute or administer Narcan® in Alaska. This is provided through a program called Project HOPE.Organizations eligible to apply may include, but are not limited to: public health centers, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, community and faith-based organizations, social service agencies, substance use treatment programs, shelters and transitional housing agencies.We encourage community organizations to work together to refer people to existing distribution sites that are active within their community.To learn more about the program, or apply, contact ProjectHOPE@alaska.gov. |