



May 31, 2023

DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS PROGRAM INSTRUCTION NOTICE NO. 22-16

TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: RACHEL TORRES
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Responding to Opioid Overdose in Job Corps

1. Purpose. To inform the Job Corps community of the current opioid epidemic and provide emergency response strategies on responding to an opioid overdose, including Narcan administration.

2. Background. The United States is experiencing an increase in drug overdose deaths. There were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths in 2021, which was an annual increase of 15 percent from 2020.^{1,2} Eighty-two percent of these deaths involved at least one opioid. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, has rapidly become the leading cause of overdose death since 2016. Synthetic fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

Job Corps is not immune from the opioid epidemic. There were 11 positive urine drug screens for fentanyl in PY2018, rising to 64 positives for the first 9 months of PY2022 despite a lower OBS. Six of the 11 student deaths in PY2022 to date were suspected unintentional drug overdoses, including two occurring on center.

Opioid-related deaths are often preventable with rapid emergency response, including Narcan (generic Naloxone) administration. An opioid overdose death is rarely instantaneous; users gradually stop breathing after the drug is taken. If administered quickly, Narcan temporarily

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2022/202205.htm

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. Narcan must be administered within minutes to counter the overdose effects.³

Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose and promptly administering Narcan can save a life. Signs include:

- Small, constricted “pinpoint” pupils
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

On March 29, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved *Narcan, 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray* for over-the-counter (OTC), nonprescription use taking this pharmaceutical from prescription status to nonprescription status.^{4,5}

3. Action. Job Corps centers operators must:

- I. Include medical emergencies in their Emergency Action Plan (EAP), including a plan to respond to a suspected opioid overdose. See Policy and Requirements Handbook (PRH) Chapter 5, Section 5.1., R18, a(1).
- II. Submit the medical emergency components of the EAP within 2 weeks release of this Program Instruction Notice (PIN). The entire EAP will be added to PRH Exhibit 5-2 and the list of Annual Plans to be submitted within 90 days of center operator contract award and annually on the contract anniversary date.
- III. Communicate to all staff, in writing, that Narcan **MUST** be administered to any student who is unconscious or exhibiting other signs of an opioid overdose, as outlined above, unless there is an obvious alternative cause (e.g., choking on food).
- IV. Ensure all staff are trained on the following topics annually:
 - a. **Signs of an opioid overdose** as outlined above. This training may be provided by the Trainee Employee Assistance Program (TEAP) Specialist, an alternative staff member, or an outside organization.
 - b. **Naloxone/Narcan administration**. All staff must:
 - i. Watch the [Lifesaving Naloxone \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/lifelines/lifelines-naloxone-training-video) training video, or a video from the Narcan/Naloxone manufacturer or professional organization, or staff may participate in an in-person training that reviews Narcan administration; and

³ <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-announces-preliminary-assessment-certain-naloxone-products-have-potential-be-safe-and-effective>

⁴ <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-over-counter-naloxone-nasal-spray>

⁵ <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/information-about-naloxone>

- ii. Receive an electronic or hard copy of the CDC's How and When to Use Naloxone for an Opioid Overdose.
 - c. **Identifying opioids.** This training may be provided by the TEAP Specialist, an alternative staff member, or an outside organization.
 - d. **Center-specific Naloxone/Narcan protocols.** This training must include the following:
 - i. Locations of Narcan on centers.
 - ii. Assurance that Narcan is safe and should be administered if there is any possibility of an opioid overdose. If Narcan is mistakenly administered, no adverse effects will occur in a healthy individual.
 - iii. Information on state Good Samaritan or Medical Amnesty Laws (if applicable), which protect the person administering life-saving measures from legal ramifications.
 - iv. Guidance on responding to a student who is unconscious or losing consciousness or otherwise exhibiting symptoms of an opioid overdose, as outlined in How and When to Use Naloxone for an Opioid Overdose.
 - v. Follow-up procedures to notify the applicable center staff (e.g., Health and Wellness, Center Director) after a medical emergency.
 - e. **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid.** This training must be conducted every two years per PRH Exhibit 5-4.
- V. Ensure all students are trained by the TEAP Specialist, an alternative staff member, or an outside agency on the following topics during the Career Preparation Period:
- a. **Role of synthetic opioids in overdose deaths and risk with use of any illicit drugs.**
 - b. **Signs of an opioid overdose, as outlined above, and response actions.**
 - c. **Naloxone/Narcan administration.** All students must:
 - i. Watch the Lifesaving Naloxone (cdc.gov) training video, or a video from the Narcan manufacturer or professional organization; or students may participate in an in-person training that reviews Narcan administration; and
 - ii. Receive an electronic or hard copy of the CDC's How and When to Use Naloxone for an Opioid Overdose
 - d. **Center-specific Naloxone/Narcan protocols.** This training must include the following:
 - i. Locations of Narcan on centers.
 - ii. Assurance that Narcan is safe and should be administered if there is any possibility of an opioid overdose. If Narcan is mistakenly administered, no adverse effects will occur in a healthy individual.
 - iii. Information on state Good Samaritan or Medical Amnesty Laws (if applicable), which protect the person administering life-saving measures from legal ramifications.
 - iv. Guidance on responding to a fellow student who is unconscious or losing consciousness or otherwise exhibiting symptoms of an opioid overdose, as outlined in How and When to Use Naloxone for an Opioid Overdose.
 - v. How to alert staff of emergencies.

- VI. Ensure Narcan and other life-saving devices are readily available on center, as follows:
- a. Two boxes (i.e., four doses) of Narcan (or generic), 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, must be available in the following locations:
 - i. Health and Wellness Center in the Medical Emergency Response Grab-and-Go Kit
 - ii. Safety and Security Office in the First Aid Emergency Grab-and-Go Response Kit (accessible 24/7)
 - iii. Each dormitory
 - iv. Recreation
 - v. Academic and trade buildings/areas
 - vi. In a portable kit for transportation vehicles
 - b. Consider mounting Narcan Supply Kits (e.g., Naloxone Safety) on the wall next to fire extinguishers.
 - c. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) must be accessible 24/7 and located near the First Aid Emergency Grab-and-Go Response Kit.

4. Resources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Factsheet on Opioids
- NIDA Factsheet on Naloxone
- American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) National Practice Guidelines
- FDA Information on Naloxone
- American Medical Association: How to Administer Naloxone
- CDC's Fentanyl Facts
- GAO-21-248, DRUG MISUSE: Many States Have Good Samaritan Laws and Research Indicates They May Have Positive Effects
- Drug Enforcement Agency Fact Sheet on Fentanyl
- SAMHSA's Overdose Prevention Toolkit
(<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Opioid-Overdose-Prevention-Toolkit/SMA18-4742>)

5. Effective Date. Effective immediately until rescinded or superseded.

6. Inquiries. Inquiries about this Information Notice should be directed to Lesley Nesmith at Nesmith.Lesley@dol.gov.

7. Attachment:

PIN 22-16 Attachment A. Medical Emergency and Infectious Disease Plan Template