

Feb. 2, 2016



White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli talks about the lifesaving overdose antidote naloxone at a press conference held Monday at the University of Toledo. CVS Health announced that all of its Ohio pharmacies will offer naloxone without a prescription, beginning in March.

>>> Ohio CVS Stores to Start Selling the Life-Saving Heroin Antidote Naloxone Over-the-Counter

CVS Health [announced Monday](#) during a press event at the University of Toledo that it would make the opioid overdose reversal medicine naloxone available without a prescription at all CVS Pharmacy locations across Ohio beginning in late March. Joining the company in making the announcement were White House National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, and Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp.

"Naloxone is a safe and effective antidote to opioid overdoses, and by expanding access to this medication in our Ohio pharmacies by the use of a physician's standing order for patients without a prescription, we can help save lives," said Tom Davis, R.Ph., vice president of Pharmacy Professional Practices at CVS Pharmacy. "We support expanding naloxone availability and we applaud the State of Ohio for its leadership in the fight against drug abuse and addiction."

CVS Health is also providing the opportunity for law enforcement agencies in Ohio to apply to receive a drug collection unit to help local communities safely dispose of unwanted medications, including controlled substances. Through the [Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program](#), a joint effort of CVS Pharmacy and The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, more than 20 drug disposal units donated across Ohio have collected more than 4,000 pounds of unwanted medications since September 2014. Nationwide, the program has donated more than 500 drug collection units and collected more than 28 metric tons of unwanted medications.

In the News

2.2.16 | *Toledo Blade* [CVS to sell overdose antidote to anyone](#)

1.30.16 | *Medical News Today* [How we label people with mental illness influences tolerance toward them](#)

1.29.16 | *WKYC-TV* [Cleveland student leaders tackle Northeast Ohio's heroin epidemic](#)

1.29.16 | *Huffington Post* [Mental Health in the Black Community](#)

Did you miss yesterday's opioid town hall in Toledo? Watch the video [HERE](#).

Please share widely and encourage your colleagues to subscribe to *OhioMHAS eNews* on our [website](#). Also, be sure to join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#)!