



# COVID-19 and Project DAWN/Community Naloxone Distribution

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Lori Criss, Director

Be aware COVID-19 might present unique challenges for populations with substance use disorder, but naloxone orders will not be suspended.

At this time, most of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) staff will be working from home until further notice. While remote, the ODH Naloxone Team will still be available to address your questions, provide technical assistance, and place naloxone orders. Again, naloxone orders will not be suspended, and you may continue to email and call the ODH Naloxone Team as usual (phones have been forwarded).

One of the best measures of disease containment and slowing down transmission is social distancing and minimizing contact with groups of people. So please take the utmost precaution when serving your communities while continuing Project DAWN and other integrated naloxone activities.

With that in mind, please note the following:

- If your program can operate with limited public interaction (such as online ordering and mobile delivery), please divert the majority of your distribution activities to those strategies if possible.
- If you do not have an alternative distribution setting or strategy that allows minimal public contact, Harm Reduction Ohio has offered to accommodate client requests for naloxone via online ordering. Clients can be referred to <https://www.harmreductionohio.org/get-naloxone/>.
- We are not advising the suspension of naloxone distribution, but you are encouraged to be flexible and adjust/modify program operations as necessary. Risk of overdose should remain a priority health concern, and our commitment to serving Ohio's most at-risk populations should not waver.
- You have permission to be more lenient with Intake Form information collection until situations improve, on the condition the 'FOR OFFICE USE ONLY' section at the top is complete. Still try to collect as much information as possible.
- Please continue to submit all reporting requirements (MDLs, Intake Forms, IN Grant deliverables) as scheduled.
- If you are anticipating an increase in overdoses and need additional naloxone for response, please contact Sierra Dantzler at [Sierra.Dantzler@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Sierra.Dantzler@odh.ohio.gov). Due to limited and diverted funding, an additional allocation may not be guaranteed.
- As people are advised to limit social interactions, you can refer clients to Never Use Alone (<http://neverusealone.com/>), which will provide a contact person for individuals who may be isolated. Emergency services will be alerted if the person stops responding. (We thank Portsmouth City Health Department for sharing this resource.)
- If, for any reason, your agency is impacted by COVID-19 and decides to suspend naloxone distribution or significantly shift operations, please let Sierra Dantzler know.