


Peer-to-Peer or Secondary Naloxone Distribution

People who get naloxone from your program likely know other people who need it, too.



Secondary naloxone distribution means making sure trusted community members have enough naloxone to pass along to their peers.

For more information Contact
the Kentucky Department for
Public Health Harm Reduction
Program at:

HarmReduction@ky.gov

See reverse side for FAQs

How can we set up peer-to-peer or secondary naloxone distribution?

Who is a peer?

A peer is anyone who is or knows someone likely to witness an overdose. Peers may be people who use drugs, their friends, roommates or family members.

People who use drugs, like everyone, live in a community. Ensuring that naloxone is available in these communities is crucial to preventing overdose death.

Programs that provide services to people who use drugs can recognize participants who are highly involved and well-connected in their communities. These participants might say things like:

- “Everyone in my building knows I always have it (naloxone).”
- “I don’t use (opioids), but I know people who do.”
- “I’m going to take this (naloxone) back to the camp.”
- “Many of my friends think this place is a setup. Can I bring some (naloxone) to them?”

At the same time, some people at risk for overdose may not be using these support services. When you recognize a peer, ask:

- “How many kits do you need?”
- “Do you know other people who need naloxone?”

Negotiate up!

“You can help us make sure everyone has as much naloxone as they need. Can you help distribute a box of 12 kits?”

What are the benefits of secondary distribution?

People who use drugs face barriers when accessing support services and naloxone distribution programs:

- Limited hours
- Transportation
- Medical mistrust
- Lack of community representation
- Fear of surveillance
- Fear of law enforcement
- Fear of being recognized

Secondary distribution addresses each of these barriers by making naloxone available from trusted community members when and where it’s needed most.

Is there enough naloxone to go around?

Agencies that use the FindNaloxoneNowKY.org “Ordering for an Agency?” platform are *encouraged* to identify potential secondary peer distributors and offer up to 12 naloxone kits, a full case.

What about training?

There are no laws in Kentucky that require training when over-the-counter (OTC) naloxone is distributed to members of the general public.

However, training can help people feel ready to administer naloxone when it’s needed, and peers are usually the most trusted and experienced overdose response trainers. We encourage you to share the materials available at FindNaloxoneNowKY.org.