

News Release

For more information, contact Pam Palm,
740-507-6533 or ppalm @knoxhealth.com



11660 Upper Gilchrist Rd. Mount Vernon, OH 43050
PH 740-392-2200 Fax 740-392-9613
www.knoxhealth.com

**For Immediate Release
Dec. 2, 2016**

Faulty atomizer replaced in locally distributed kits

About 80 percent of the Project Dawn kits distributed in Knox County were affected by last month's recall. According to Mary Derr, director of nursing with Knox County Health Department, almost all of the defective atomizers have been replaced in the nearly 50 kits distributed by the health department which included kits given to local law enforcement and to residents who requested them.

"Fortunately, we had contact information for those who attended our public distribution event and we were able to follow up with them," said Derr. "Some people actually called in to see if their kits were affected." The health department has distributed kits to the Danville Police Department and the Knox County Sheriff's Office. Other local law enforcement agencies have decided not to carry the kits since Emergency Medical Services (EMS) carry the kits.

Teleflex Medical, manufacturer of the atomizer, issued a product recall of 32 lot numbers on Nov. 4 . The recall did not impact the medication itself, but rather just the nasal atomizer, which is used to administer the drug. The recall was issued after it was discovered that faulty atomizers shoot a stream of naloxone into patients' noses rather than producing a mist, potentially making the overdose reversal drug less effective.

Project Dawn kits have also been distributed locally by some pharmacies. "If you received your kit from a pharmacy, you should contact the pharmacy to see if your kit was affected by the recall," said Derr.

-MORE -

Naloxone, the generic version of Narcan, is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by heroin and some opiate prescription pain killers. When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and quickly restores breathing. It has been used safely by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function: to reverse the effects of opioids in order to prevent overdose death.

The public distribution of naloxone in Knox County is part of Project DAWN – **Deaths Avoided With Naloxone** – and is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Health. Several local health departments joined together to apply for funding.

For more information or to receive a Project Dawn kit, contact Derr at 740-399-8003 or mderr@knoxhealth.com.

###