

News Release

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Naloxone available for local residents at risk of overdose

Naloxone will soon be available for Knox County residents who are at-risk for opioid overdose or who know someone who is at-risk. Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by heroin and some opiate prescription pain killers. The Knox County Health Department will hold a community training session on Oct. 12 to distribute Narcan kits and teach participants how to use them. The session will be held at 6 p.m. at the health department, 11660 Upper Gilchrist Rd.

Since there are a limited number of kits, pre-registration is recommended.

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 critical 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.

Project DAWN participants receive training on: recognizing the signs and symptoms of overdose; distinguishing between different types of overdose; performing rescue breathing; calling emergency medical services; and administering intranasal Naloxone.

For more information on Project DAWN in Knox County or to pre-register, contact Mary Derr, RN, director of community health services with the Knox County Health Department, at 740-399-8003

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