

Naloxone Box Implementation Guide

What is a naloxone box? A 'how to' guide on how to implement one in your community.



Table of Contents

Purpose of this Guide	1
What is a Naloxone Box?.....	2
Types of Naloxone Boxes and Their Purposes	2
Naloxone Administration Training	3
Choosing a Location for Your Naloxone Box.....	4
What Supplies are Needed for a Naloxone Box?	4
My Box is Installed, Now What?	6
Additional Resources	6
References & Notes.....	7

Purpose of this Guide

This guide is intended to assist in the implementation of a naloxone box at agencies in the state of Wisconsin. Whether you are curious about what a naloxone box is, or your agency is ready to implement one but don't know where to start, there are resources here for everyone. Keep in mind, there are many ways you can go about implementing a naloxone box – this guide is simply a set of suggestions and important considerations.

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What is a Naloxone Box?

A naloxone box is a plastic box mounted to the wall with the emergency supplies needed to respond to an opioid overdose before help arrives. Naloxone boxes can also be referred to as NaloxBoxes or NaloxZONE Boxes depending on the brand. Each brand of box may differ slightly but in general, they contain nasal spray naloxone medication (also known as Narcan® Nasal Spray), a CPR breathing mask, gloves, and instructions on administering the naloxone.



Naloxone boxes are placed in communities across the country to make overdose emergency response supplies readily available should an overdose occur. Common locations for boxes include, but are not limited to, schools, libraries, food pantries, pharmacies, health departments, fire stations, clinics or hospitals, police stations, and grocery stores.

Types of Naloxone Boxes and Their Purposes

While there are different brands and companies that produce and supply naloxone boxes, in general, naloxone boxes can function in two ways:

1. *Emergency Use Only*

Just as the purpose describes, naloxone boxes can serve as an emergency use *only* resource. Like an Automated External Defibrillator, or AED, these boxes are *only* used when an emergency is actively occurring onsite. Oftentimes this type of naloxone box can include an alarm or siren on the top of it to alert staff and/or anyone nearby that an emergency is occurring.

2. *Emergent Use & Increase Naloxone Saturation*

While making naloxone accessible in emergent situations is critical to reducing overdose deaths, getting naloxone into the hands of the community is also important for when a naloxone box may not be readily available. This second purpose of naloxone boxes is to also provide the community with a free supply of naloxone nasal spray. Ideally, community members can go to the box at any



time, open it, take some naloxone, and leave. They may want the naloxone for themselves, someone they care about, or just to simply have in case of emergency.

Naloxone Administration Training

Naloxone nasal spray is easy to administer and can be done by anyone. However, to ensure proper precautions are taken in an emergency, it is encouraged to have staff at your organization trained on the administration of naloxone when a box is installed. Training is short (often ~30 minutes) and is offered by many agencies in a variety of formats. Below is a sample list of Wisconsin specific agencies that offer free training. Be sure to also check with your local public health department.

GENERAL RESOURCES

Wisconsin Voices of Recovery

Available every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 12-12:30pm and every 4th Wednesday from 6:30-7pm

Contact naloxzone@fammed.wisc.edu to schedule.

Toward the Heart Online Naloxone Course

15-25 minute interactive online course, available on-demand

<https://towardtheheart.com/naloxone-course>

Workplace Safety and Prevention Services - Naloxone Awareness Training

Free, 30 min, Online Course

[Website linked here](#)

WISCONSIN DPI APPROVED TRAININGS

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Naloxone Training

*Not approved for administration of injectable naloxone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XH2mkQC3-fc>

American Heart Association Opioid Education for Nonclinical Staff and Lay Responders

*Not approved for administration of injectable naloxone.

<https://www.heart.org/en/courses/opioid-education>

For more information on DPI approved naloxone trainings, please visit

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pupil-services/school-nurse/training/medication/opioid-antagonist>



Choosing a Location for Your Naloxone Box

There are many considerations for choosing the best location for your naloxone box. First, naloxone nasal spray works best when kept between 68-77 degrees F. Therefore, a box would likely need to be placed indoors.

Second, naloxone boxes may get more use if placed in a location where people who use drugs commonly go. This could include, but is not limited to, public libraries, public transportation waiting areas, warming shelters, gas stations, food pantries, resource centers, etc.

Some organizations choose to place their box alongside their AED, creating one common place for all emergency supplies within the building. This can be especially helpful when placing a box where children are present, such as at schools. The association of the naloxone box with the AED makes it clear that the box is not to be tampered with and is for emergencies only.

What Supplies are Needed for a Naloxone Box?

Essential Supplies:

1. The box
 - a. NaloxBox.org (Discount code WIN24 gets you 5% off through 12/31/24)
 - b. Amazon
 - c. Wisconsin Voices of Recovery
 - d. The Barney Naloxone Stand
 - e. The Porch Box

*Each of these vendors offers a box that is slightly different from the others. Be sure to know what purpose your box is aiming to serve and then do research to select a product that best matches your intention.

2. Naloxone medication

In the state of Wisconsin, naloxone nasal spray is now available over the



counter meaning anyone can buy it. Your local pharmacies, drug stores, and Amazon could be good places to purchase naloxone. Also check with your local health department to see if they can assist you in securing naloxone.

3. CPR breathing mask & gloves

These supplies are crucial for boxes intended to be used in an emergency. People experiencing an overdose often stop breathing and need rescue breaths from a bystander until help arrives. This mask set provides a healthy barrier between the person experiencing an overdose and the rescue breather.

Check with the company you purchase your box from to see if they offer these supplies, otherwise Amazon could be a good resource.

4. Instructions on administering naloxone

Instructions on administering naloxone nasal spray are often included on or inside the box. Additional agencies, like Wisconsin DHS, offer instructional posters on administering naloxone that pair nicely next to a box.

Other Helpful Supplies:

- Signs to accompany the box
- Posters to advertise the box
- Local resource or crisis line cards/brochures
- Wi-Fi Door Sensors
 - Some agencies have equipped their box with wi-fi door sensors that notify staff when the box has been opened and consequently needs to be restocked. These sensors are those originally intended for home security systems.
 - Door sensors can be purchased a variety of places, but Amazon offers a wide variety.



- Evaluation strategy
 - QR code – either on a sign or placed on the naloxone itself asking about the use of the medication.
 - Staff tracking system – keep track of how many doses of naloxone are distributed through the box.

My Box is Installed, Now What?

Congratulations on installing your box!

Wisconsin Department of Health Services maintains a list of all locations that supply naloxone in the state. If you have not done so already, be sure to **add your box** to the master list by emailing dhsdcts@dhs.wisconsin.gov or visiting <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/safer-use.htm#naloxone>

Raise awareness in your community that the resource is now available! Check out the additional materials available in the Harm Reduction Saves Lives Toolkit that may help with promotion. However, keep in mind that your community may not be entirely receptive of this new resource. Moving slowly and continuing to educate on why a naloxone box in your community is needed can be two effective strategies to overcoming pushback.

Continue to think about the **sustainability** of the box. Be sure there is a person monitoring the box for any restocking needed or tampering. Have a plan for where and how to get supplies when more supplies are needed.

Additional Resources

Check out the full Harm Reduction Saves Lives Toolkit for more education resources and materials to share in your community by visiting northwoodscoalition.org.

To learn more about the fight against the opioid crisis in Wisconsin, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/index.htm>



To learn more about what harm reduction is by visiting <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/harm-reduction>

References & Notes

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