SCHOOLS TOOLKIT · FOR PRINCIPALS, NURSES, COUNSELORS AND STAFF

Every school needs a fentanyl plan.

How to prepare your school, respond to an overdose, and support your community afterward.

75%
Of overdose deaths among ages 10 to 19 involved fentanyl, 2020 to 2024.[1]

4 in 10
Teens who died of an overdose had signs of a mental health condition or treatment.[2]

12
States required every public high school to keep naloxone, as of January 2025.[3]

2 mg
A potentially deadly dose of fentanyl. About what fits on the tip of a pencil.[4]

PREPARE YOUR SCHOOL

Should our school stock naloxone?

Yes. It's safe, simple and sold over the counter. A growing number of states require it in high schools. Keep more than one dose with your AEDs and first aid kits.[3]

What goes in a response plan?

Where naloxone is kept and who checks dates. Who responds and who calls 911. How families are told, how privacy is protected, and how students are supported after.[5]

Are staff protected if they give it?

Every state has a naloxone access law, and most protect people who give it in good faith. Check your state law and have counsel review your plan.[6]

Who should be trained?

As many adults as you can: nurses, coaches, office staff, bus drivers, security and teachers. Many health departments train for free. Consider high school students too.[5]

Does naloxone send the wrong message?

No. It's emergency gear, like an AED or an EpiPen. It doesn't mean you expect an overdose. It means you're ready.

How should we teach students?

Facts, not scare tactics. Cover fake pills, social media and how to get help. The Teachers and Students sheets are a good place to start.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Every school needs naloxone on hand, adults trained to use it, and a written plan.

RESPOND AND RECOVER

What does an overdose look like?

Tiny "pinpoint" pupils. Slow or stopped breathing. Blue or gray lips and fingertips. Choking or gurgling sounds. A student who won't wake up.[5]

How do we involve parents?

Send home fact sheets, host a parent night, and explain your emergency plan. Point families to the Parents guide in this library.

How do we support grieving students and staff?

Grief can look like anger or withdrawal. Be flexible. Keep counseling open for weeks, not days. Remember that staff may be grieving too.

What happens after an overdose or a death?

Activate your crisis team. Tell families as your policy requires. Offer counseling, and check on students at higher risk. Share only what the family has approved.

Can students get in trouble for calling 911?

All 50 states and D.C. have Good Samaritan laws. Make sure your discipline policy encourages students to get help for a friend.[7]

SCHOOL OVERDOSE RESPONSE

1. **Call 911 and alert responders**
   Send someone for the nurse and the nearest naloxone.
2. **Give naloxone**
   One spray in a nostril. Repeat after 2 to 3 minutes if nothing changes.
3. **Support breathing**
   Rescue breaths or CPR if trained and needed.
4. **Protect the student**
   Recovery position. Clear other students from the area.
5. **Stay and follow up**
   Hand off to EMS, tell the family, and document per policy.

GET HELP

EMERGENCY
911

POISON HELP
1-800-222-1222

SAMHSA HELPLINE
1-800-662-4357

FIND TREATMENT
FindTreatment.gov

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE
Call or text 988

Fentanyl Families Network
For families who have lost a loved one. Scan to join.

About us. United Against Fentanyl is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that interrupts the use of illicit fentanyl through innovative, bold, and effective initiatives. Learn more at unitedagainstfentanyl.org.

SOURCES

1. CDC, National Fentanyl Awareness Day Toolkit: overdose deaths among people ages 10 to 19, 2020 to 2024.
2. Tanz LJ, et al. Drug Overdose Deaths Among Persons Aged 10 to 19 Years, United States, July 2019 to December 2021. MMWR 2022;71(50):1576 to 1582.
3. Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association, Naloxone in High Schools state map, Jan. 2025.
4. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, fake pill public awareness campaign, dea.gov/onepill.
5. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit, 2023; CDC, Stop Overdose.
6. Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association, Naloxone Access: Summary of State Laws, 2025.
7. Harm Reduction Legal Project, 50-state survey of overdose Good Samaritan laws, current as of Dec. 31, 2025.

For education only. Not medical or legal advice. In an emergency, call 911. Updated November 2026.