

State of Iowa Department of Corrections

Policy and Procedures

Policy Number: IO-SE-09

Applicability: DOC

Policy Code: Public Access

Iowa Code Reference: N/A

Chapter 3: INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS

Sub Chapter: SAFETY & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Related DOC Policies: HSP-410, IO-SE-03, IO-SE-20

Administrative Code Reference: N/A

Subject: OPIOID AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE RESPONSE

PREA Standards: N/A

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1. PURPOSE

To describe the procedures used by the Iowa DOC in recognizing and responding to accidental exposure to hazardous substances, including but not limited to opioids.

2. POLICY

It is the policy of the IDOC to evaluate and manage staff and incarcerated individuals with suspected exposure to hazardous substances including but not limited to opioids.

3. DEFINITIONS

- A. Hazardous Substance - Any substance which has the capacity to cause significant adverse effects to the health of humans and/or to the environment, either by itself or through interaction with other factors.
- B. Naloxone - A prescription medication which reverses drug overdoses caused by intentional or accidental exposures to opioids. Also known as Narcan.

- C. Standing Order - The authorization from the Iowa Code which permits an Iowa pharmacist to dispense Naloxone to eligible recipients without a provider's prescription when the pharmacist has complied with specific rules of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy.
- D. Personal Protective Equipment- clothing and/or equipment that is worn in order to provide protection against hazardous substances or environments. See **IO-SE-08**.

4. MAIL HANDLING PROCEDURES

- A. Nitrile protective gloves shall be worn when handling incoming mail and packages.
- B. If a package, envelope, or substance suspected of containing a hazardous substance is found in the mailroom or other location within the facility, the following steps should be taken:
 - 1. Alert others in the area about the suspicious package/substance. Leave the area if possible, close any doors, and take actions to prevent others from entering the area. If possible, shut off the ventilation system.
 - 2. Do not shake or empty the contents of any suspicious package or envelope.
 - 3. Wash hands with soap and water to prevent spreading potentially hazardous substance to face or skin. Seek medical attention if exposure is suspected.
 - 4. Law enforcement officials shall be notified in the event of significant exposure.
- C. Standard Safe Operating Procedures- Minimal Risk
 - 1. Many routine daily operations may pose what is defines as minimal risk of potential exposure. This may include but is not limited to:
 - a. Cell searches
 - b. Handling incarcerated individual's property
 - c. Pat searches

- d. Mail screening

- e. Staff response to suspected overdose with no visible drugs noted.

- 2. PPE required for these tasks include powder free nitrile gloves.

D. Standard Safe Operating Procedures - Moderate Risk

A. Any small amount of visible substance believed to be fentanyl, opioids or related substances will result in a moderate risk environment.

- 1. Assess the scene and notify the Shift Supervisor.

- 2. Do not handle the substances including do not open, smell, shake or bump the substance.

- 3. Vacate any bystanders, if applicable.

- 4. Wash hands immediately after potential exposure to avoid further exposure and to avoid cross contamination. Do not use hand sanitizers or bleach solutions to clean contaminated skin.

B. When responding to an area such as a medical emergency where small amounts of visible substances are present - only staff who are fit tested and trained to wear a respirator shall don the appropriate PPE prior to entering.

PPE required for moderate risk environments include:

- a. Double gloving nitrile gloves.

- b. Protective eyewear.

- c. N95 respirator.

- d. Wrist/arm protection which may include one or more of the following:

- 1) On-duty uniform with sleeves.

- 2) Sleeve covers.

- 3) Gowns.

4) Coveralls.

E. Standard Safe Operating Procedures- High Risk

1. Any significant or large amount of visible substance believed to be fentanyl, opioids or related substances.
2. Isolate the area and contact local law enforcement.

5. EXPOSURE PROTOCOL

A. The signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose or exposure will depend on the purity, amount and the route of administration. The onset of symptoms can range from immediate to being delayed by minutes, hours or days. Signs and symptoms may include:

1. Small, constricted pupils.
2. Falling asleep or loss of consciousness.
3. Slow, shallow breathing.
4. Choking or gurgling sounds.
5. Limp body.
6. Pale, blue or cold skin.

B. If an opioid exposure or overdose is suspected, the following steps should be taken:

1. Initiate the facilities emergency response.
2. Check for consciousness and initiate first aid/CPR is applicable.
3. Administer one dose of Naloxone (Narcan) Nasal Spray according to directions provided - ONE dose in ONE nostril.
4. Continue CPR and/or rescue breathing if indicated until emergency services arrives.
5. If patient does not wake or respond within two to three minutes and EMS has not arrived, a second dose of Naloxone may be administered

in the OPPOSITE nostril. Doses of Naloxone may be repeated in alternating nostrils every two to three minutes until EMS arrives or the patient responds.

6. Any IDOC staff who could potentially administer the Naloxone must undergo the required instruction, as specified by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy. Initial in-person instruction should be provided by an appropriately trained staff member; renewal training will occur yearly via E-Learning.
 7. Naloxone should be in a secure but accessible location. Each facility will create a procedure on how to assign Naloxone to facility staff and their preferred locations.
 8. Naloxone should not leave the facility once the assigned employee has ended their shift.
- C. Replenishment of Naloxone (Narcan) Nasal Spray when used or replacement of supplies that have reached their expiration date may be done by contacting the IDOC Central Pharmacy that initially provided the supply: DOC Central Pharmacy at Mitchellville at 515-725-5065 or IMCC Pharmacy at 319-626-4411.