

OPIOID MONITORING INITIATIVE

Recommendations for Administering Naloxone During COVID-19

****FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE****

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SOURCES: Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AZ HIDTA)
Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
Arizona Governor's Office
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

ATTN: First Responders

This information is being shared with the public for situational awareness and safety purposes.

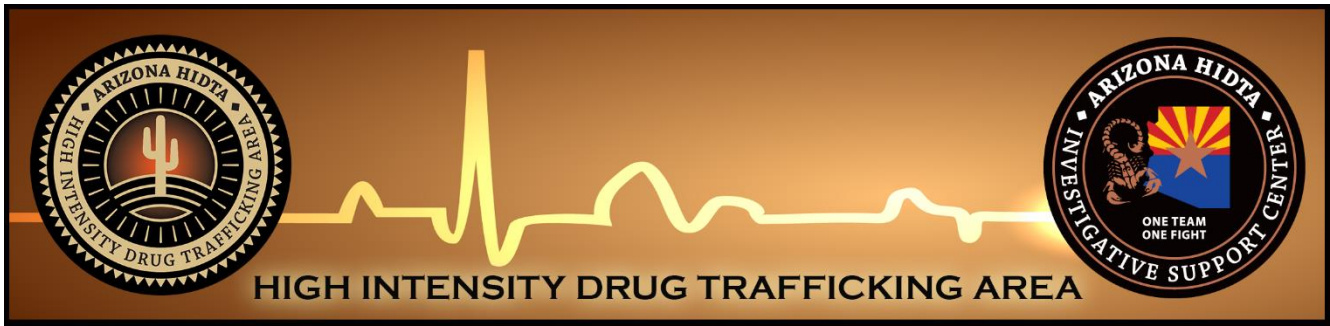
As Arizona deals with the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19 or 2019-nCoV), an infectious respiratory disease, first responders are likely to encounter people with the virus when responding to suspected drug overdose incidents. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 is mainly spread from person to person through close contact and the dispersal of respiratory droplets (i.e. coughing, sneezing, and/or talking). Individuals that suffer from substance use disorder are likely at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. People with COVID-19 may have the following symptoms: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath. First responders including law enforcement can reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19 by wearing proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when responding to potential overdose incidents.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS¹:

The following guidelines are recommended by the CDC for first responders to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19 when administering naloxone:

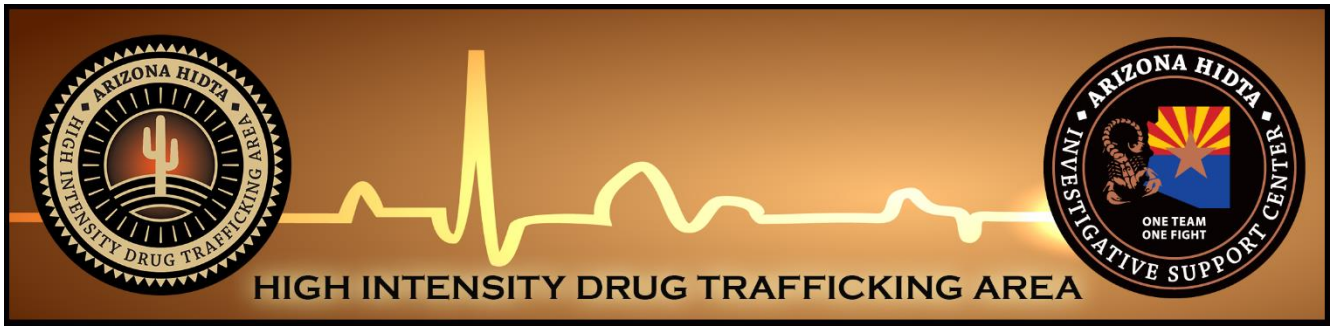
¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved April 6, 2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>.

For more information, please contact the AZ Opioid Monitoring Initiative at omi@azhidta.org.



- Learn your employer’s plan for exposure control and participate in all training on the use of PPE for respiratory protection, if available.
- Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate PPE have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.
 - Administering intranasal naloxone without proper PPE increases the risk of exposure due to the proximity to the patient’s nose.
- The minimum PPE recommended is:
 - Single pair of disposable examination gloves.
 - Any NIOSH-approved particulate respirator (i.e. N-95 or higher).
 - Facemasks are an acceptable alternative until the supply chain is restored.
 - Eye protection (i.e. goggles or disposable face shields).
 - Disposable isolation gown or single use/disposable coveralls.
 - Follow the standard operating procedures (SOP) for containment and disposal of used PPE.
- Whenever possible avoid using a manual resuscitator or “self-inflating bag” and provide a second dose of intranasal naloxone when necessary.
- **DO NOT touch the face with unwashed hands.** Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available and illicit drugs are **NOT** suspected to be present, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- For officers who come into close contact with an individual during an arrest, clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse; follow the SOP for containing and laundering clothes; avoid shaking the clothes.
- Have a trained Emergency Medical Service/Emergency Medical Technician (EMS/EMT) assess and transport any individual who might have COVID-19 to a healthcare facility.

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TREATMENT AND OVERDOSE RECOVERY INFORMATION

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. It is an opioid antagonist which binds to opioid receptors to help reverse and block the effects of other opioids. Naloxone administration can be lifesaving. It can quickly restore normal respiration to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped from an opioid overdose, including heroin and prescription opioid pain medications. For more information regarding naloxone access/training, please go to [ADHS – Naloxone](#).

24/7 treatment is available for those struggling with opioid use disorder. Arizona has six Opioid Treatment Centers of Excellence. The centers are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide immediate access to opioid treatment services. The 24/7 centers serve Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) members, individuals with no insurance, and individuals with insurance that may not cover some services like Medication Assisted Treatment or Peer Support Services. Please see the attached bulletins with additional information on the 24/7 Treatment Centers of Excellence, including free online meetings and virtual platforms for various recovery services. Feel free to share with your community.

In addition, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) unveiled a national substance abuse treatment locator which allows people to find substance use treatment for themselves or others. The tool can be found at [FindTreatment.gov](#).

OTHER ARIZONA RESOURCES REGARDING COVID-19

For more Arizona resources regarding COVID-19, please go to [ArizonaTogether.org](#). By working together, we can help our communities combat the opioid overdose crisis and get through this pandemic to save lives.

Opioid Monitoring Initiative Partners



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