



Recommendations for Administering Naloxone During COVID19

Intelligence Dissemination Report

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Key Findings:

First responders can reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19 by wearing proper PPE when responding to potential overdose incidents.

Details:

As coronavirus (COVID-19 or 2019-nCoV) spreads throughout New Jersey, first responders are likely to encounter those with the virus when responding to suspected overdose incidents.

- According to the 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.
 - Due to the respiratory complications caused by the virus, life-saving measures may not be as effective if not done in a timely manner.

Recommendations for First Responders¹:

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

- Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (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.
- 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.
- **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.
- Have a trained EMS/EMT assess and transport any individual who might have COVID-19 to a healthcare facility.

Sources: Law Enforcement & Open Source

Source Reliability: Completely Reliable

Contributing Agencies: New Jersey Department of Health, EMS Council of New Jersey, New Jersey State Police DMI

Dissemination: New Jersey First Responders

Request for Information and Contact Information: Any agency with additional information regarding this topic, or with questions about this product, may contact the Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI), Office of Drug Monitoring & Analysis at (609) 963-6900 ext. 6273, or DMI@gw.njsp.org.

¹ Center for Disease Control. Retrieved 17 March, 2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>.