



BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

better health. stronger communities.

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Ann Sabo
616.485.1432
or
Anna Kendall
269.804.1646

Berrien County Health Department to Host Free Narcan® Training Aug. 30-31

Benton Harbor, Michigan, Aug. 17, 2022 – In recognition of National Overdose Awareness Day and Month, the Berrien County Health Department is hosting two drive-thru Narcan® training events Aug. 30-31 to educate the community and help prevent overdoses.

Pre-registration is required for the training sessions, which are free and take only 15 minutes. The first 50 participants each day will receive a free rescue kit containing Narcan, an easy-to-use nasal spray that can help reverse the effects of an opioid overdose in minutes.

The sessions will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. on:

- Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 2149 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor
- Wednesday, Aug. 31, National Overdose Awareness Day at 1205 N. Front St., Niles

“If you or someone you love would benefit from this life-saving training, we urge you to sign up – there are no questions asked,” said Lisa Peeples-Hurst, public health promotion and prevention supervisor. “If you give us 15 minutes of time, we can train you on the signs to be aware of – and how to administer this life-saving medication.”

The sessions will be conducted by Peeples-Hurst and Shannon Larry-Burton, who are certified Narcan trainers. Participants must be 18 or older to participate. The sessions will cover the signs and symptoms of an overdose, which include:

- Small, constricted pinpoint pupils
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold, clammy or discolored skin

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer five steps to take if you think someone is overdosing:

- Call 911 immediately.
- Administer Narcan or its generic, naloxone.
- Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
- Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.
- Stay until emergency assistance arrives.

Peeples-Hurst noted Michigan, like many states, has a “good Samaritan” law and will not prosecute anyone who alerts first responders to a potential overdose.

“If you think someone is overdosing, don’t offer them coffee or toss them in the shower to sober them up,” she said. “Call 911 immediately. You do not have to worry about being prosecuted in Michigan. The goal with this law – and with our training – is to prevent overdoses.”

To register for a Narcan training session, scan this QR code.



If you are unable to attend either session, the Berrien County Health Department offers free Narcan training year-round. For more information, visit bchdmi.org or call 269.927.5622. Visit the CDC’s [website](#) for more resources on preventing overdoses.

#