Dear Community Member,

The drug overdose crisis is an issue affecting people and families in Vermont and around the country. One of the many ways Vermont is responding is by making naloxone widely available throughout the state, including in K-12 schools. Naloxone, also known as Narcan®, is a emergency medication nasal spray that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug (such as prescription pain medication or heroin) in an emergency.

Fortunately, in Vermont, there have been no fatal overdoses in elementary, middle or high schools. However, fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is commonly found in Vermont’s drug supply, including in [fake pills made to look like real prescription medications](https://www.dea.gov/onepill).

The Vermont Department of Health, and [the federal government](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Letter-to-Schools.pdf), recommends schools be prepared to respond to a suspected opioid overdose by stocking naloxone and training people on how to respond to an opioid overdose to save a life. Our school district/supervisory union will follow these recommendations and have naloxone on hand in case we ever need to respond to an opioid overdose emergency.

As with any other first aid supply used in a medical emergency, having this life-saving medication on site is important for the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Staff will receive training on how to recognize an opioid overdose and how to use naloxone. It is important to note that naloxone is not harmful, even if used in a situation where it is not an opioid overdose or when an opioid is not present.

Naloxone is also available at many locations throughout the state, including some pharmacies, social service organizations, Emergency Medical Services providers, and can now be ordered online and sent by mail. You can learn more about naloxone by visiting the Department of Health’s website (healthvermont.gov/naloxone). If you are interested in learning how to get naloxone for yourself or a family member, please visit [VTHelpLink.org](https://vthelplink.org/) or call 802-565-1000.

Please contact the school with any questions.

Sincerely,

School Staff

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