

Naloxone and Liability for the Workplace and Employers in Louisiana

Naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan, is a life-saving medication that rapidly reverses opioid overdoses. It restores normal breathing by blocking the effects of opioids.

Your business or organization can help save lives!

Naloxone is legal to purchase, carry and use in Louisiana, and workplaces in Louisiana are recognizing the role of naloxone as a vital first aid tool.

Reasons to have naloxone at your business/organization

- The U.S. is experiencing an unprecedented overdose crisis that touches everyone's lives, and as Louisianans we take pride in helping our neighbors and community members in times of need.
- Overdose commonly occurs in public places. Equipping your workplace and staff with naloxone is an essential way to ensure lives can be saved in the event of an overdose, including employees, customers or passersby.
- Naloxone and overdose response can easily be incorporated into your business's first-aid and emergency plans with help from the Louisiana Department of Health or your local community-based organizations.
- Louisiana's Good Samaritan law protects anyone who administers naloxone, regardless of where they obtained the medication.

Liability and legal protection

In Louisiana, it is legal for a bystander to give naloxone to a person experiencing a suspected overdose. Louisiana's Good Samaritan Law protects any bystander who administers naloxone from legal liability. The law states:

"[A]ny person may lawfully possess naloxone.... [A] person acting in good faith who... receives and administers naloxone... to a person reasonably believed to be undergoing an opioid-related drug overdose shall be immune from criminal and civil liability for the administration, unless personal injury results from the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct in the administration of the drug." - La R.S. 40:978.1, La R.S. 40:978.2

Because of the Good Samaritan Law's protections, all Louisianans should feel comfortable and empowered to use naloxone to respond to a suspected overdose.

How to get naloxone

Your organization or business can purchase naloxone over the counter at pharmacies statewide. There may also be organizations in your area that distribute free naloxone to the community and provide overdose response training. Check the Louisiana Department of Health's Harm Reduction Distribution Hub for participating organizations near you: louisianahealthhub.org/hrdhub.