

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SUBSTANCE USE!!!

Adolescence is a key window of vulnerability for using drugs and developing substance use disorders.

- ◆ The still-developing teenage brain is prone to act on impulse, take risks, and follow the influence of peers. By the time they finish high school, more than two thirds of kids will have tried alcohol and about half will have used illicit drugs such as marijuana or will have abused prescription drugs.
- ◆ Opioids are a class of drugs that include pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin[®]), hydrocodone (Vicodin[®]), codeine, morphine, and many others. Opioids also include the illegal drug heroin and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.
- ◆ When too many opioids are taken or given at one time, an overdose can occur. An overdose can happen *intentionally* or *by accident*.

Fortunately, there is a medication that can aid those experiencing an overdose from opioids. What is this medication?

- ➔ Naloxone hydrochloride (also known as naloxone, *NARCAN[®]* or *EVZIO[®]*) is a drug that can temporarily stop many of the life-threatening effects of overdoses from opioids.
- ➔ Naloxone can help restore breathing and reverse the sedation and unconsciousness that are common during an opioid overdose.
- ➔ Once Narcan is used, emergency medical treatment is required.
- ➔ Naloxone will NOT reverse overdoses from other drugs, such as alcohol, benzodiazepines, cocaine, amphetamines or non-opioid containing drugs.

Is Narcan available on our school campuses?

Narcan is present on campuses through AFUHSD and may be utilized by trained healthcare personnel in conjunction with alerting emergency services for further immediate evaluation.

Sources:

National Institute on Drug Abuse

NIDA. (2014, January 14). Principles of Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment: A Research-Based Guide. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-adolescent-substance-use-disorder-treatment-research-based-guide> on 2019, January 14.

Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions.