

Naloxone Standing Order for Schools FAQ

The following is a Frequently Asked Questions and resource guide for Texas schools regarding implementation of SB 629, which mandates schools to acquire, store, and administer naloxone for opioid overdose emergencies.

1. What is the purpose of SB 629?

The purpose of the law is to authorize the possession and administration of opioid antagonists (drugs that can reverse an opioid overdose; naloxone/Narcan®) by school personnel. The law states that each school district shall adopt and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of opioid antagonists at each campus in the district that serves students in grades 6 through 12, and may adopt and implement such a policy at each campus in the district, including campuses serving students in a grade level below grade 6.

2. When does SB 629 take effect?

This law took effect with the passage of SB 629 during the 2023 legislative session; the bill fully took effect January 1, 2024.

3. Is this a requirement of school districts?

Yes, this law requires schools and school districts in Texas to adopt a policy to enable the ability to possess and administer opioid antagonists.

4. How do schools get training on naloxone and opioid overdose?

The law states that schools and school districts are responsible for providing training in a formal session or through online education in accordance with the policy adopted under Section [21.4515](#). School districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and private schools must maintain records on the training.

The University of Texas at Austin's College of Pharmacy offers free trainings on opioids and overdose response, including how to administer naloxone, available at:

<https://utpharmacyce.learningexpressce.com/index.cfm?fa=view&eventID=18752>

5. Who should we train in our school to administer naloxone?

SB 629 states that any school personnel who will have access to naloxone and who may administer naloxone. Training is not required for school personnel who will not have access to naloxone or who will not potentially be administering the medication.

We recommend, based on best practice, that all staff in a school, be trained on how to identify the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and how to respond to an opioid overdose, including administration of naloxone.

6. How is naloxone given to someone who may be experiencing an opioid overdose?

Naloxone comes in either an injectable form or a nasal spray.

The University of Texas at Austin's College of Pharmacy offers free trainings on opioids and overdose response, including how to administer naloxone, available at:

<https://utpharmacyce.learningexpressce.com/index.cfm?fa=view&eventID=18752>

7. Who supplies Naloxone to the schools and does it require a prescription to get?

The naloxone standing order allows any employee or volunteer of a requesting organization to obtain and distribute naloxone without a prescription. It also allows any employee or volunteer of a requesting pharmacy or organization to administer naloxone for a suspected opioid overdose. Under Texas law, once you are covered under this standing order, you are protected legally to distribute naloxone to people who want or need it.

8. What is the Naloxone Standing Order?

This standing order allows a pharmacist to dispense naloxone under the authority of the delegating physician in Texas. It also allows any employee or volunteer of a requesting organization to distribute naloxone without a prescription and allows any pharmacy or organization employee or volunteer to administer naloxone for a suspected opioid overdose. Under Texas law, once you are covered under this standing order, you are protected legally to distribute naloxone to people who want or need it

9. Why is a Standing order needed in Texas?

Naloxone is a medication that, without a standing order, would require a prescription from a physician or other clinician. The standing order allows pharmacists and employees or volunteers of organizations to distribute naloxone without a prescription. It also allows for the administration of naloxone by anyone covered under the standing order.

10. Who is eligible to apply for a standing order?

Any pharmacy or other organization operating in Texas (including schools and school districts) may request our standing order to distribute naloxone. There is no cost to get the standing order.

11. How long does it take to get the standing order?

The standing order usually takes about 10 business days to receive since we need to verify the information that you provide to us.

12. What is the cost for the standing order?

There is no cost for schools or other organizations operating in Texas to get the standing order.

13. Does the standing order expire?

This standing order has no expiration date. If there are legislative changes that require revisions to the current standing order, we will issue revised and updated versions to all organizations who have received standing orders from us. You will not need to request an updated version.

14. The standing order was signed in 2019, is it still valid?

Yes, there is no expiration date for this standing order. If there are legislative changes that require revisions to the current standing order, we will issue revised and updated versions to all organizations who have received standing orders from us. You will not need to request an updated version.

15. Can naloxone be administered to anyone in a school setting?

Yes, the medication can be administered to anyone in a school setting for emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. Naloxone package information indicates that naloxone is safe for adult and pediatric patients. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, naloxone is safe to administer to school-aged children.

16. Is parental consent needed for a student to be administered naloxone in an emergency?

No, SB 629 indicates that schools are covered for liability under SB 629. School personnel and school volunteers are allowed to administer naloxone to a student in an emergency.

17. Is there a cost to the schools for the training and the medication?

Individuals and organizations located in Texas can request the intranasal form of naloxone (Narcan®) free of cost at: <https://www.naloxonetexas.com>

The University of Texas at Austin's College of Pharmacy offers free trainings on opioids and overdose response, including how to administer naloxone, available at:

<https://utpharmacyce.learningexpressce.com/index.cfm?fa=view&eventID=18752>

18. What is required for reporting if the naloxone is administered, and where would a school make the report?

SB 629 requires a campus submit a report no later than the 10th business day after the date school staff or school volunteer administers naloxone to the individuals and entities identified in the [Texas Education Code 38.223](#). This report is to be submitted to both the Texas Department of State Health Services via this [form](#) and to TXOTI.org via the opioid administration survey which can be found [here](#).

19. Does a school district need a specific policy before administering naloxone in an emergency?

Texas Education Code 38.222 requires school districts to adopt and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of opioid antagonists at each campus in the district that serves students in grades 6-12. Districts have the option to adopt and implement a policy for campuses serving students in a grade level below grade 6.

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.38.htm#38.222>

20. Am I personally liable if something goes wrong or if I don't do anything at all?

SB 629 provides broad statutory immunity protection for schools and school personnel who possess and administer the medication in accordance with state law. For further information about the statutory immunity protections, please consult your school district's legal counsel.

21. How can school personnel in Texas get naloxone and naloxone training?

Individuals and organizations located in Texas can request the intranasal form of naloxone (Narcan®) free of cost at: <https://www.morenarcanplease.com/>

The University of Texas at Austin's College of Pharmacy offers free trainings on opioids and overdose response, including how to administer naloxone, available at:

<https://utpharmacyce.learningexpressce.com/index.cfm?fa=view&eventID=18752>