



SB 395 – Model Policy on Naloxone Training and Education

Scope

Senate Bill 395, passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kemp on April 23, 2024, addresses the following:

Local School Systems or Public Schools, including Charter Schools

- Allows school visitors and personnel to possess an opioid antagonist on school property or at a school-sponsored activity;
- Requires local school systems or public schools, including charter schools, to acquire and maintain a supply of opioid antagonists in any secure location where an individual may have an opioid overdose;
- Allows school personnel to administer an opioid antagonist to any person school personnel believes in good faith is experiencing an opioid overdose and satisfies the other requirements of the code;
- Allows immunity from civil liability or professional discipline for any school personnel who chooses in good faith to administer or not administer an opioid antagonist, except that such immunity shall not apply to an act or omission of willful or wanton misconduct, recklessness, or gross negligence;
- Allows immunity from civil liability for a local school system for an act or omission related to the implementation of the provisions of this Code section, except that such immunity shall not apply to an act or omission of willful or wanton misconduct, recklessness, or gross negligence.

Government Entities

- Requires that all qualified government buildings and courthouses, as defined in the Code, (1) Maintain a supply of at least three-unit doses of opioid antagonists and (2) Ensure that such supply of opioid antagonists is available and accessible during regular business hours and outside of regular business hours for all government entity events.
- A government entity may make opioid antagonists accessible during government entity events that occur on property that is not publicly owned.
- Every government entity that is based in or operates out of a qualified government building shall establish and implement an internal training and implementation policy for opioid antagonist administration that is based on the model training and implementation policy developed by the Department of Public Health (“DPH”).
- Allows immunity from civil liability to all employees, officers, agents, and contractors of government entities, and all other individuals who receive training pursuant to subsection (f) of the Code section shall be immune from civil liability or professional discipline for any good faith act or omission to act related to the emergency administration of an opioid antagonist, although good faith will not include willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness.

- A government entity shall not be subject to civil liability for damages for any failure to provide an automated external defibrillator or opioid antagonist pursuant to this Code section.

Under SB 395, DPH will consult with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and may consult with any other medical, clinical, or peer support professionals or organizations it deems appropriate to identify and develop educational resources and guidelines on opioid-related overdoses. DPH must also develop a model training and implementation policy for opioid antagonist administration. All educational resources and guidelines, as well as the model training and implementation policy, must be prominently maintained on DPH's website.

Definitions

'Government entity' means any state board, commission, agency, department, or governing authority of any county, municipality, or consolidated government, but such term shall not include local school systems, public schools, charter schools, or university buildings.

'Qualified government building' means a building in which a government entity is housed or meets in its official capacity, including the portion occupied by a government entity of any building that is not publicly owned, provided that such building contains an automated external defibrillator.

Required Training and Implementation Policy Elements for Government Entities

To ensure Government entities comply with SB 395, the following are elements that must be included in any training and implementation policies developed by government entities.

1. Provide details about how an individual can access opioid antagonist administration training.

The school system or government entity will clearly outline the method and types of training that will be offered to personnel on how to administer an opioid antagonist. DPH has developed a general community training for administering naloxone. This training covers the following topics developed by a DPH Pharmacist:

- Opioids and their Effects
- Routes of Exposure
- Recognizing Signs of an Overdose
- Naloxone Administration
- After administering Naloxone
- Naloxone guidance

This training video can be used by schools and government entities to provide online training to their staff. In addition, onsite training can be coordinated with local public health districts' Opioid and Substance Misuse offices. The training video can be found at the following link: <https://dph.georgia.gov/naloxone>

Additional training resources can be found at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities: <https://opioidresponse.info/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention training resources can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/hcp/toolkits/naloxone.html>

2. Specify the location or locations of the government entity's supply of opioid antagonists. Time is of the essence when determining whether to administer an opioid antagonist. The training and implementation policy must clearly state where opioid antagonists are located within a school or government building. Opioid antagonists should be stored in locations that are secure but convenient for school and government personnel to access. Examples of these locations could be the nurses' offices, centralized storage rooms on each floor or wing, and security offices. The most important thing is that all staff and personnel are trained on where opioid antagonists are stored and how to administer the opioid antagonist when needed. Moreover, designated storage areas should be indicated with easy-to-read signage.

Government entities and schools should establish a process for sourcing and purchasing naloxone. They should also ensure employees are aware to store naloxone in a climate-controlled area at a safe storage temperature as provided on the packaging. Additionally, similar to prescribed medication, each dose of naloxone includes an expiration to be referenced before administration.

3. All internal training and implementation policies must contain an affirmative statement that clearly states the following: "Any trained individual may administer an opioid antagonist to any person whom the trained individual believes in good faith to be experiencing an opioid-related **overdose.**"
4. All internal training and implementation policies must contain the following statement: **"Georgia law provides that any trained individual shall be immune from civil liability or professional discipline for any good faith act or omission to act in the emergency administration of an opioid antagonist to a person believed to be having an opioid-related overdose."**

Conclusion

For additional resources related to the administration of opioid antagonists and opioid data, please visit the DPH Opioid and Substance Misuse website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/stopopioidaddiction>. In addition, the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provides resources for addiction support at <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/be-dbhdd/opioid-crisis>.