

Naloxone Emergency Response Cabinets Frequently Asked Questions

What are they? Naloxone emergency response cabinets (e.g. Naloxbox) are designed to increase public access to naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication. Similar to AEDs, naloxone emergency response cabinets are placed in public places where bystanders can administer life-saving treatments until paramedics arrive.

Why? More than 100 lives are lost daily due to opioid overdose in the United States. Increasing access to naloxone, especially in areas where overdoses may be common, can help decrease the number of opioid-related deaths and raise awareness of how to administer it. Increasing public access to naloxone can also help fight stigma related to opioid use disorder.

What is in the cabinet? Each naloxone emergency response cabinet contains 2 doses of naloxone for nasal administration with directions for use, along with a barrier mask to facilitate rescue breathing. Information on local treatment resources can be included as well.

Does Naloxone work? YES! Numerous studies have shown a direct correlation between increasing naloxone access and reduced mortality from opioid-related deaths. More research is needed, however, to fully understand the impact of naloxone emergency response cabinet installation.

Who can install them? – In Kentucky, KRS 217.186 authorizes licensed health care providers and naloxone-certified pharmacists to prescribe and dispense naloxone to persons or agencies. Agencies can install naloxone emergency response cabinets to increase the accessibility of naloxone for bystander use in areas where overdoses may occur. The individual agencies installing naloxone emergency response cabinets must have a process in place for monitoring the cabinet so that it can be refilled if the naloxone is used or have the naloxone product replaced before it reaches its expiration date.