

[Administration of Naloxone \(Act 139 of 2014\)](#)

Act 139 was signed into law in late September 2014. This legislation allows first responders including law enforcement, fire fighters, EMS or other organizations the ability to administer a medication known as naloxone, a life-saving opioid reversal medication, to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose. The law also allows individuals such as friends or family members that may be in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid related overdose to obtain a prescription for naloxone. Additionally, Act 139 provides immunity from prosecution for those responding to and reporting overdoses.

Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug (i.e. prescription pain medication or heroin). When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. Naloxone has been used safely by medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function: to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death.

Whether or not a school should participate in the administration of naloxone is a local decision, made in conjunction with the school solicitor, doctor, nurse(s) and administration.

Additional information can be found on the Department of Health's website at :

<http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/School%20Health/Pages/Whats-New-with-School-Health.aspx#.VecQzHfD-uW>

Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs has provided resources and access to training on their website at www.ddap.pa.gov