



## Promoting wellness and recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor • Tracy J. Plouck, Director • 30 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 466-2596 • [mha.ohio.gov](http://mha.ohio.gov)

April 14, 2017

Dear Health Commissioner,

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), through its Community Innovations (336-504) line item, committed \$500,000 in each year of the biennium to enhance access to the lifesaving drug naloxone. Funds are being used to purchase naloxone for distribution to county health departments to dispense to local law enforcement, emergency personnel, and first responders (as required by House Bill 64).

It has come to our attention that there are some naloxone doses that are scheduled to expire within the next few months. On April 7, 2017, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy announced that it finds it in the public interest to permit the transfer or sale of naloxone (Narcan®) between law enforcement agencies. In an effort to continue our commitment to ensuring access to naloxone, we are asking that each health department notify OhioMHAS of any kits set to expire on or before September 30, 2017.

OhioMHAS, Ohio Pharmacy Services will be facilitating a naloxone exchange between communities experiencing high rates of usage and communities with supplies nearing expiration. This exchange will not result in a loss of naloxone coverage to your area.

We are asking you to contact law enforcement, emergency personnel, and/or first responders to whom you have provided naloxone through funding from the Community Innovations line item to determine the expiration dates of any remaining doses. Once OhioMHAS, Ohio Pharmacy Services has this inventory, a plan to exchange the expiring naloxone will be developed. Details and a schedule for exchanges will be forthcoming.

For your convenience, we have included a template letter for you to share with those law enforcement, emergency personnel, and/or first responders to whom you have provided naloxone through funding from the Community Innovations (336-504) line item. Please distribute this letter to all applicable law enforcement, emergency personnel, and/or first responders immediately.

Report back to OhioMHAS no later than May 4, 2017 the number of kits in your jurisdiction that are set to expire. Please report the number of expiring kits to Andrea Boxill, Director of the Governor's Opiate Action Team at [Andrea.Boxill@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:Andrea.Boxill@mha.ohio.gov). Please copy Sue Griffith, Chief of the Ohio Pharmacy Services at [Sue.Griffith@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:Sue.Griffith@mha.ohio.gov) and Nicole Marx, Executive Assistant to OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck at [Nicole.Marx@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marx@mha.ohio.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Boxill of the Governor's Opiate Action Team at (614) 752-8359.

Thank you.

Andrea Boxill  
Deputy Director of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team  
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

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#### TEMPLATE LETTER LANGUAGE

You are a law enforcement, emergency personnel, or first responder partner that is in receipt of naloxone through funding from the Community Innovations (336-504) line item committed to law enforcement, emergency personnel, and first responders. In an effort to ensure continued access to naloxone, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is asking that each health department notify them of any kits set to expire on or before September 30, 2017.

To maximize the use of the medication, the department will be facilitating naloxone exchanges between communities experiencing high rates of usage and communities with supplies nearing expiration. No local area will experience a reduction in naloxone supply as a result of these exchanges.

Please check the expiration dates on the naloxone supply provided from the local health department through the OhioMHAS, Ohio Pharmacy Services. Inform your local health department of the number of kits set to expire on or before September 30, 2017 no later than (INSERT DATE PRIOR TO MAY 4th). OhioMHAS will inform the local health department of details of next steps, including the schedule for replacement, once this information is received.

Please feel free to contact us with questions or for more information.