



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 24, 2023

Subject: **Opioid Overdose Response Program**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education
Dileep Bhalla, Health, Safety and Wellness Coordinator

Rationale

The opioid crisis is a complex public health issue which continues to impact individuals and families across Durham Region. Since 2013, the number of emergency department visits due to an opioid overdose in Durham Region increased from 175 to 850 visits in 2021. The number of Durham Region opioid related deaths increased from 18 in 2013 to 130 deaths by 2021. There are many factors that have led to an increase in opioid-related overdoses, including high rates of opioid prescribing and the presence of strong opioids in the illegal drug supply.

While our schools have not been identified as workplaces where an opioid overdose is likely to occur, the Durham Catholic District School Board wants to be proactive to help prevent overdoses within our larger communities. To this end, we will be implementing an Opioid Overdose Response Program across the system.

Background

On March 28 and 29, The Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation offered all DCDSB Grade 9 physical education teachers CPR, AED and Opioid Overdose Response training. Upon completion of the workshop, teachers received their certification in CPR Level A and learned effective strategies for teaching the ACT High School CPR & AED Program and Opioid Overdose Response Training to their students. Teachers were provided with an eLearning Module, student manual and Nasal Naloxone Trainers to ensure students receive adequate training on different opioid overdose scenarios and can walk away feeling confident to respond in a real-life situation. By teaching CPR & AED, and how to respond to a suspected opioid overdose, our youth will be empowered to save lives.

Furthermore, the DCDSB will be purchasing Naloxone Kits and placing them in a publicly accessible area of each school. Naloxone is a fast-acting drug used to temporarily reverse the effects of opioid overdoses. The Naloxone Kits will each contain two Naloxone Nasal Sprays, two sets of gloves and CPR masks, anti-microbial towels, and an instructions card. If any Kit contents are utilized, the DCDSB will replace the required items. This will allow school staff, students and community members to quickly access and utilize Naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose.

Additionally, each school Administrator will be receiving Naloxone Administration training. This training will allow Principals and Vice-Principals to appropriately identify an opioid overdose and administer the naloxone nasal spray.

Next Steps

We will be working with our First Aid Training provider to have them include Opioid Overdose Response and Naloxone Administration training with the regular First Aid, CPR & AED training moving forward. This will allow our first aid certified staff at each school to gain the knowledge and skills required to respond to an opioid overdose.

TB/JW