



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

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April 11, 2024

House Education Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 106
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Follow up to inquiries (H)EDU committee April 5, 2024

Dear House Education Committee,

Thank you for your questions regarding provisions of HB202 Opioid Overdose Drugs in Schools

What is the cost of providing kits to the 13 schools districts?

The cost for naloxone and supplies provided to the 13 school districts annually is roughly \$98,500. This supplies just under 1,700 kits to the 13 districts.

How difficult would it be for public health nurses to ensure these supplies are available and updated? Could the embedded public health nurses across the state go into schools and check to make sure kits are in place or make contact with districts to ensure supplies are updated and on hand?

Public Health Nurses (PHNs) already outreach school districts in the communities they serve regarding availability of opioid response supplies including naloxone. PHNs also work with school districts they have provided these supplies to in order to ensure supplies are updated and provide training.

For schools with naloxone in opioid response boxes provided through Project Gabe, the division of public health supports schools by tracking naloxone inventories, training staff on how to dispense naloxone and notifying schools when supplies are expiring. Project Gabe opioid response boxes include a QR code that can be scanned to report when a kit has been used. New orders are requested routinely through PHNs to the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention (OSMAP) in order to manage inventory.

For schools who receive naloxone supplies directly through Project HOPE, PHNs are available to outreach or visit schools. OSMAP and PHN can work together to consolidate a list of schools directly receiving naloxone to ensure that these supplies are updated and available. PHNs can also provide education regarding schools checking their own supplies in the kits they currently have as well as guidance on how to replace any expiring supplies.

What is the reach of the PH nurses? Is there a nurse in every hub community? What is the coverage of public health nurses across the state?

The State of Alaska, Section of Public Health Nursing provides individual and population-based public health services across the state through 16 public health centers with itinerant services to over 200 remote and rural communities across Alaska. The PHN internal workgroup to address substance misuse and overdose prevention, known as the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) workgroup, consists of 16 PHNs who serve as the substance misuse prevention focal points across the state. Fifteen out of sixteen hub communities are staffed with PHNs. Tok is the only hub PHC that is not currently staffed with a PHN full-time but continues to be served by PHN staff from Fairbanks. A team of itinerant PHNs based in Anchorage also serves remote and rural communities across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Hedberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Heidi" on the top line and "Hedberg" on the bottom line.

Heidi Hedberg

Commissioner