

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2020 Jul 03

FROM: DIRECTOR - PUBLIC SAFETY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

**SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF NASAL NALOXONE SPRAY AT CITY
RECREATION CENTRES AND LIBRARIES**

PURPOSE: To provide the Public Safety Committee information on the placement of nasal naloxone spray at City recreation centres and libraries.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Public Safety Committee receive this report for information purposes.
2. **THAT** Public Safety Committee recommends Council receive this report for information purposes.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be provided to the Library Board for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2016 April, in response to the ongoing and escalating crisis of illegal drug-related overdose deaths, the BC Provincial Health Officer (PHO) declared a public emergency under the *Public Health Act*, which was a first in BC and Canada. Since the initial public emergency declaration, the overdose crisis has not only continued but also been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020 May, BC recorded 170 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths which is the highest monthly total ever recorded in BC and equates to approximately 5.5 deaths a day. This represents a 93 percent spike over the number of similar deaths in 2019 May. In addition, on 2020 June 26, BC paramedics responded to 131 drug overdoses, the most recorded in a single day.

The response to the overdose crisis has been extensive and multi-faceted by local, provincial and federal partners and has consisted of multiple components including the wide spread availability of naloxone (also known as Narcan) to reverse the effects of an

opioid overdose. The City of Burnaby as part of the recently implemented Community Safety Plan, has identified an initiative specific to the overdose crisis, entitled *Substance Use Response* which is further outlined in this report.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

Goal

- A Safe Community
 - Crime prevention and reduction – Ensure citizens and businesses feel safe in our community
 - Emergency preparedness – Enhance plans, procedures and services so that we are better prepared to respond to emergencies and are able to maintain City services
 - Emergency services – Provide responsive emergency services
 - Transportation safety – Make City streets, pathways, trails and sidewalks safer
 - Community amenity safety – Maintain a high level of safety in City buildings and facilities for the public and City staff
- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy life – Encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being
 - Healthy environment – Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
 - Lifelong learning – Improve upon and develop programs and services that enable ongoing learning
 - Community involvement – Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community

3.0 BACKGROUND

The confluence of the drug overdose and COVID-19 public health emergencies has resulted in an increased risk of illicit drug overdose due to the new guidelines for social distancing and the closure of international borders. These actions have impacted the illicit drug trade and pushed people at risk to seek out alternative drug supplies which have even greater unpredictable drug potencies, which in turn has resulted in increased overdoses.

The City of Burnaby currently provides Fire Department and RCMP first responders with naloxone should they respond to, or encounter a drug overdose in progress. The Fire Department with their advanced first aid training and skills, are provided with injectable naloxone and the RCMP are provided with nasal naloxone spray which is also effective in reversing the effects of a drug overdose, however much simpler to administer. The Fire Department has deployed naloxone on an average of several times a month during the

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overdose crisis, while the RCMP has administered nasal naloxone spray on lower frequency. The differing level of applications is due to the Fire Department receiving and attending to significant numbers of calls for medical assistance.

As part of the Substance Use Response initiative in the Burnaby Community Safety Plan, nasal naloxone spray will be placed at select City recreation centres and libraries on a one year pilot basis. The pilot program will commence in September/October of 2020 during which time data will be collected on the usage of the nasal naloxone kits. A further report will be completed at the end of the pilot program providing an evaluation of the placement and usage of the kits, along with recommendations regarding the continuation and potential expansion of the program.

This nasal naloxone spray program is modeled after the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) program in which AEDs are currently installed throughout Civic facilities and maintained by City staff. Similar to the AEDs, the nasal naloxone spray program is intended to make the spray available for public use and City staff will not be required as part of their job duties to administer nasal naloxone. City staff who regularly work at the facilities where nasal naloxone spray is installed, would be provided with awareness training related to the intended purpose, location and use of the kits, as well as any additional health and safety training deemed appropriate to ensure they are aware of the steps to be taken in the event of an emergency, including how to address any risks associated with the public's use of the nasal naloxone kits.

3.1 Nasal Naloxone Spray

Nasal naloxone spray is a nasal formulation of naloxone and is used for the temporary treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose (attachment 1). Designed for use in the community, nasal naloxone spray is needle-free and ready to use. The nasal naloxone spray comes in a single use device containing a single dose, after which it is to be discarded. A kit typically contains two single dose applicators.

Nasal naloxone spray does have an expiration date which typically provides a usable period of 18 to 24 months and the kits would require regular replacement should the program become permanent. The potential cost per kit is approximately \$100 for a kit containing two single dose applicators. The cost for the pilot project can be absorbed within the current Public Safety & Community Services budget.

3.2 Placement of Nasal Naloxone Spray

The nasal naloxone spray will be placed at the following City facilities:

1. Bob Prittie Metrotown Public Library
2. Tommy Douglas Public Library
3. Cameron Public Library

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4. McGill Public Library
5. Bonsor Recreation Complex
6. Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool & Fitness Centre
7. Cameron Recreation Complex
8. Edmonds Community Centre

The nasal naloxone spray will be placed inside the currently installed AED storage case at each site and appropriate signage will be installed to assist the public in locating the nasal naloxone kit. The signage will indicate that nasal naloxone kits are available for use by the public, and to call 911 in the event of an emergency. In addition, each kit will contain the manufacturer's instructions and information for any member of the public that chooses to use the kit. This placement will greatly assist with the ease of regular routine inspection to ensure the integrity of the kits as well as determine if any use or tampering has occurred.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

The September/October 2020 start date for the pilot provides sufficient time for staff to finalize the health and safety training program, acquire the kits, install the signage and train staff. In addition, Corporate Communications will be engaged to prepare appropriate messaging to the community regarding the pilot project.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Public Safety Committee receive this report for information purposes, as well as recommending to Council that they also receive this report for information purposes. In addition, it is further recommended that a copy of this report be provided to the Library Board for information purposes.


Dave Critchley
Director Public Safety & Community Services

Copied to: City Manager
Dir. Parks Recreation & Cultural Services
Dir. Corporate Services
Chief Librarian
Fire Chief
OIC Burnaby RCMP

Attachments: Naloxone Nasal Spray

Attachment 1

