



# The Opioid Epidemic: Preventing a Fatal Opioid Overdose

## RECOGNIZE



A person who is overdosing may be:

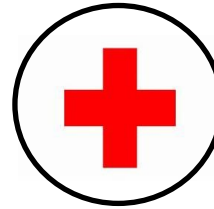
- Unconscious
- Breathing slowly or not at all
- Nails or lips turning blue<sup>1</sup>

## CALL 911



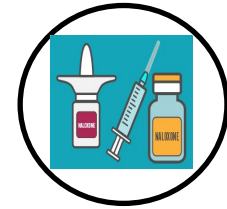
NY's Good Samaritan Law protects both the person who calls 911 and the person who overdoses from prosecution in many cases.<sup>1</sup> Click [here](#) for more info.

## RESCUE BREATHING



If you know how, perform mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing. Once the person starts breathing, lay them on their side.<sup>1</sup>

## ADMINISTER NARCAN



If Narcan is available, administer it. It is legal in NY for any non-medical person to administer it to prevent a fatal overdose.<sup>1</sup>

## All About Narcan

- Narcan, also known as Naloxone, is a prescription medicine that reverses an overdose by blocking opioids in the brain for 30-90 minutes. Administering Naloxone can be life-saving.<sup>2</sup>
- Research has found that non-medical individuals can effectively administer Narcan.<sup>3</sup> There are two forms of Narcan, a nasal spray and an injectable form.<sup>3</sup>
- There is no potential for abuse of Naloxone, and if it is administered to someone who is not actually having an opioid overdose, it has no effect on them.<sup>4</sup>
- At over 2,000 pharmacies across NY, you do not need a prescription to obtain Naloxone. Ask your pharmacist for more information about [access](#) and [trainings](#).

For a complete list of references, please visit <http://www.opioids.cce.cornell.edu/resources/>

For more information, please contact:

**Cornell Cooperative Extension** *Opioid Program Work Team*