

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM PARTNERS IN NALOXONE FOR LIFE INITIATIVE

Thornton Police Department:

The Thornton Police Department is pleased to announce that, in partnership with the Colorado Attorney General's Office, we will be equipping our officers with the drug Narcan to combat the effects of drug overdoses in the field.

The amount of overdoses due to heroin and its derivatives such as Fentanyl have been increasing and making headlines across the country. Thanks to our partnership with the Attorney General, we are now equipping our patrol cars with Narcan and training our officers on the administration of the drug. The Thornton Police Department is committed to delivering high levels of service to our citizens and protecting the men, women and children in our community. We feel that the ability to administer the potentially lifesaving drug of Narcan as the first responder on scene is one more tool we can use to be able to render immediate aid in overdose situations until medical personnel arrive on scene.

We are proud to take a proactive leadership role in training our officers on the use of Narcan.

- Thornton Police Chief Randy Nelson

Harm Reduction Action Center:

A very special thank you to the Attorney General's Office for this initiative as Colorado is in the midst of an overdose epidemic. Since 2000, 10,544 Coloradans have died due to overdose. Naloxone is a safe and easy-to-use medication used to treat an opioid overdose in an emergency situation. There is no potential for abuse and it is not a scheduled drug. Point blank, Naloxone saves lives.

In 2013, Colorado passed the law allowing third parties – such as mothers, homeless service providers, law enforcement – to have access to naloxone. Then in 2015, we passed a law allowing standing orders for access to naloxone for pharmacies and harm reduction organizations. All 100 Colorado state legislators voted in support of standing orders. There are currently over 220 pharmacies in the State of Colorado that opioid users and their loved ones can access Naloxone today. Many overdoses are witnessed and Naloxone in the hands of drug users is essential as we battle this epidemic.

At least 31 states in the United States have law enforcement carrying Naloxone. Currently there are 20 law enforcement departments carrying Naloxone in the state of Colorado. Thanks to this initiative from the AG's office, in 6 weeks there will be over 60 departments equipped to respond to an overdose in primarily rural counties.

We are thankful for this partnership as public health and law enforcement are pushing forward together for a healthier and safer Colorado.

- Lisa Raville, Executive Director of the Harm Reduction Action Center and Co-chair for the naloxone workgroup for the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Denver Health

Denver Health is happy to partner with the Attorney General's office on this important initiative that will make life-saving naloxone more widely available across the state of Colorado. As a health care organization, we are invested in helping those who struggle with opiate addictions through training, treatment and education.

Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police:

The Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) is pleased to partner with the Colorado Attorney General, The Harm Reduction Action Center, Denver Health, and the County Sheriffs of Colorado to provide training and the distribution of Narcan Rescue Kits to law enforcement and first responders across Colorado. Thanks to the efforts of Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman, funding has been earmarked to provide life-saving Naloxone to the Colorado counties hardest hit with the surging use and overdose of opioids. Naloxone allows police officers, who are typically first on the scene of a medical emergency, to use the life-saving drug.

“Saving lives is our primary mission. Law enforcement values above all else the sanctity of human life, and we see this opportunity to get life-saving Naloxone into the hands of our officers as a means to accomplish our mission. We view our partnership with public health as an excellent opportunity to combat the opioid epidemic”, said Chief Rick Brandt, Past President of the CACCP.

Tri-County Health Department:

Opioid overdose deaths are devastating to families and communities. In response the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends expanding training on the administration of naloxone to all emergency service staff because it is safe, cost-effective, and saves lives.

Tri-County Health Department supports the implementation of the CDC’s recommendation of providing naloxone to law enforcement and first responders, and we are pleased to be a part of Colorado’s multi-agency support in providing naloxone kits. Key staff members are going to participate in Colorado’s trainings alongside first responders in our communities.

- John M. Douglas, Jr., MD

Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department

Serving the 1.4 million residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

The Colorado Health Institute:

The Colorado Health Institute is the nonpartisan health policy research organization based in Denver that first mapped the opioid deaths in Colorado. Its CEO, Michele Lueck, said the maps showing the spread of deaths across the state between 2002 and 2014 were shocking – and heartbreaking.

“The data behind these maps make one thing very clear,” said Michele Lueck. “This is a widespread problem that is leading to tragedy across Colorado. It is also a clear health policy challenge. The increased access to Naloxone, especially to first responders, is a step in the right direction.”

RX Assurance:

Denver-based RxAssurance (www.rxassurance.com) teamed up with the Colorado Attorney General’s Office to offer an app-based tracking mechanism for first responders or laypersons who administer Naloxone for an opioid overdose.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Attorney General’s Office to give first responders an app based guide for properly administering Naloxone to victims of opioid related overdoses which includes a mechanism for tracking opioid overdose reversals over time,” said Bob Goodman, CEO of RxAssurance. “The rich, real-time data provided by these reports will help the state make further gains in combatting the opioid epidemic. We created RxAssurance to offer a family of solutions to help physicians, emergency response agencies, patients, and their family members and loved ones have a safer experience when using opioid medications.”

The free, award-winning app OpiRescue was created in 2015 to help combat the rise in opioid-related overdose deaths. Originally released as an instructional guide to reverse opioid overdoses for family and friends of those who are on opioid medication, or who may have become addicted to opioids.

At the request of the Attorney General’s Office, OpiRescue has been expanded to now offer first responders (and the general public, anonymously) a way to report opioid overdose reversals. First responders in Colorado can include their agency and ID and get a report emailed to them for their files. The app tracks opioid overdose reversals to the nearest cross-streets, compiling valuable data for outcome tracking.

Overdose is common among people who use illicit opioids such as heroin, and among those who misuse medications prescribed for pain, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone and morphine.

OpiRescue is available for download at www.opirescue.com at no cost for iPhone and Android. In addition to tracking and reporting, it offers information about signs and symptoms of overdose, instructions to administer Naloxone and Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) resources and is available in English and Spanish. In 2015, the app won the top prize in SAMHSA’s Opioid Overdose Prevention Challenge.

RxAssurance, the creators of OpiRescue also created a solution, OpiSafe, to help care providers better manage opioid prescribing and monitoring. OpiSafe performs risk stratification for each patient on the basis of Morphine Equivalent dosing ranges, Pain and Function scores, Opioid Misuse Risk scores and automated.

Adapt Pharma:

From Mike Kelly, U.S. President, Adapt Pharma – the manufacturers of NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray 4mg:

“We applaud the proactive steps taken by the Colorado Attorney General’s office to distribute, train, and track the use of the opioid overdose medication, naloxone, by state law enforcement officers and first responders. Their choice to make NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray 4mg the program’s exclusive product speaks to the need for a ready-to-use naloxone for use in community settings. Supplying the front lines of our country’s opioid epidemic can help to prevent unnecessary injuries and deaths resulting from opioid-related overdoses in Colorado’s communities.

NARCAN® Nasal Spray is the only FDA-approved naloxone nasal spray with a concentrated 4mg dose; studies show results in a pharmacokinetic (PK) profile similar to a 2mg intramuscular (IM) injection. The studies, which were the basis of approval, have been accepted for publication and are available online.”

U.S. Communities:

U.S. Communities was founded in 1996 as a partnership between the Association of School Business Officials, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors. U.S. Communities is the leading national government purchasing cooperative, providing world class government procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education institutions, and non-profits looking for the best overall supplier government pricing.

“U.S. Communities, along with our partners, are proud to have joined forces with Adapt Pharma and Premier Inc. to help fight this epidemic and to facilitate public agencies’ access to this potentially lifesaving medication,” said Chris Robb, General Manager of U.S. Communities.