

OPIOID ANTAGONIST ADMINISTRATION,
LOCATION, AND TRAINING POLICY

A. Purpose and Intent.

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (“O.C.G.A.”) § 31-2A-20, all Qualified Government Buildings and Courthouses (as those terms are defined herein) shall maintain a supply of at least three (3) unit doses of opioid antagonists and ensure that such supply is available and accessible during regular business hours and outside of regular business hours for all government entity events. The Effingham County Board of Commissioners may optionally make opioid antagonists available at additional government buildings other than those required by the code and may make them available during government entity events that occur on non-public property. The Effingham County Board of Commissioners is authorized to receive and administer grants, gifts, contracts, money, and donations for the purpose of implementation.

This Training and Administration Policy is established pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-20(f) and shall be implemented and acknowledged by those employees who are designated by the Effingham County Board of Commissioners to administer an opioid antagonist. These designated officials and/or employees are required to read this policy, complete opioid antagonist administration training, and return a signed copy of the Acknowledgment below to the designated record-keeper for Effingham County Board of Commissioners.

B. Definitions.

1. “Opioids” are a class of drugs that derive from, or mimic, natural substances found in the opium poppy plant and include both prescription medications for pain relief and illegal drugs. Examples of opioids include morphine, codeine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, and heroin.
2. An “opioid related overdose” means an acute condition, including, but not limited to, extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, coma, mania, or death, resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid or another substance with which an opioid was combined or that a layperson would reasonably believe to be resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid or another substance with which an opioid was combined for which medical assistance is required.
3. An “opioid antagonist” means any drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors and that is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of an opioid related overdose. An opioid antagonist can quickly restore normal breathing to a person if their breathing has slowed or stopped because of an opioid overdose. The most common opioid antagonist is Naloxone, known by the brand name Narcan, which is available as an injectable or a nasal spray.

4. “Government entity” means any state board, commission, agency, or department, or the governing authority of any county, municipality, or consolidated government, but such term shall not include local school systems, public schools, charter schools, or university buildings.
5. “Qualified Government Building” means a building in which the governing authority of the Effingham County Board of Commissioners is housed or regularly meets, provided that such building also contains an automated external defibrillator. In the case of a building that contains an automated external defibrillator, but is not publicly owned, the portion of such building in which such governing authority is housed or regularly meets constitutes the qualified government building.
6. “Courthouse” means a building occupied by judicial courts and containing rooms in which judicial proceedings are held, provided that such building contains an automated external defibrillator.

C. Training Requirement.

Training will be provided by the Effingham County Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) department and will cover several key components, including opioids and their effects, routes of exposure, recognizing signs of an overdose, naloxone administration, post-administration protocols, as well as legal protections. The initial training will take place upon policy implementation, followed by annual refresher courses to maintain proficiency. Attendance will be recorded. By adhering to these training requirements, the County aims to enhance its preparedness to respond effectively to opioid emergencies. The Georgia Department of Public Health maintains a list of approved videos to assist with such training on its website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/public-notice-regional-and-statewide-meetings/approved-training-opioids>.

The following three (3) training videos, together as a whole, meet the statutory requirement with a total runtime of approximately 45 minutes:

1. How to Use Naloxone Nasal Spray (0:30):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odlFtGNjmMQ>
2. Opioid Overview Training (8:25):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5L57IvDCkiY>
3. Opioid Overdose and First Responder Naloxone Administration Training (35:47):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb6ttH2M3wo>

D. Authority to Administer Opioid Antagonist.

Any official or employee who has completed the training requirement as indicated in Section C above may administer an opioid antagonist to any person who the trained individual believes in good faith to be experiencing an opioid related overdose. An opioid antagonist will not cause harm if given to someone who is not experiencing an opioid related overdose.

If the trained official or employee has a good faith belief that a person is experiencing an opioid related overdose, that individual should:

1. Administer an opioid antagonist;
2. Call 911;
3. Try to keep the person with a suspected overdose awake and breathing;
4. Lay that person on their side to prevent choking; and
5. Stay with that person until emergency assistance arrives.

E. Immunities.

The following is a required policy statement pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-20(f)(2)(D):

Georgia law provides that any trained individual shall be immune from civil liability or professional discipline for any good faith act or omission to act in the emergency administration of an opioid antagonist to a person believed to be having an opioid related overdose.

Provided that an employee, official, officer, agent, contractor, or other individual of the Effingham County Board of Commissioners receives the required training, the above immunity shall apply. However, good faith does not include willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-20(i), the Effingham County Board of Commissioners shall not be subject to civil liability for damages for any failure to provide an automated external defibrillator or opioid antagonist.

F. Medical Amnesty Law.

Georgia's Medical Amnesty law, O.C.G.A. § 16-13-5, protects a person seeking medical assistance for an opioid overdose for either themselves or for another person. Those persons shall not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for a drug violation if the evidence for the arrest, charge, or prosecution of such drug violation resulted solely from seeking such medical assistance.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OPIOID ANTAGONIST LOCATIONS

The following AED cabinets in Effingham County Qualified Government Buildings and Courthouses contain at least three (3) doses of an opioid antagonist:

- **Effingham County Courthouse**
700 N Pine Street
Springfield, Ga 31329
 - **1st Floor**
 - **3rd Floor**
- **Effingham County Historic Courthouse**
901 N Pine Street
Springfield, Ga 31329
- **Effingham County Administrative Complex**
804 S Laurel Street
Springfield, Ga 31329
 - South Side – 1st Floor
 - North Side – 1st Floor
 - North Side – 2nd Floor
- **Effingham County Multi-Agency Call Center**
181 Recycle Way
Guyton, Ga 31312

Additional doses of an opioid antagonist are located at the following locations:

- **Effingham County Administrative Complex**
804 S Laurel Street
Springfield, Ga 31329
 - South Side – 2nd Floor – HR Office/Office S217

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OPIOID TRAINING AND POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____ (printed name of employee/official), hereby acknowledge that I have read the Opioid Antagonist Training and Administration Policy and have completed opioid antagonist administration training.

I also acknowledge that I have been informed that Georgia law provides that any trained individual shall be immune from civil liability or professional discipline for any good faith act or omission to act in the emergency administration of an opioid antagonist to a person believed to be having an opioid related overdose.

Signed: _____

Date: _____