



28 February 2025

Nome City Council,

Our region is grappling with a serious surge in dangerous drugs, especially fentanyl. This alarming increase has led to a rise in emergency calls and a tragic escalation in both patient morbidity and mortality resulting from unintentional overdoses. Immediate action is essential to address this crisis and protect our community.

In 2024, following the successful installation of the first Naloxone (Narcan®) vending machine at the Patient Hostel by Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC), the city of Nome requested a second machine to be placed in a more accessible and public location. NSHC has made significant investments to acquire this second machine; however, it currently remains in storage due to the lack of a suitable installation site.

We have actively sought potential public locations for the new machine throughout Nome, including hotels and community venues. Unfortunately, every site we have approached has either declined our request or has proven unsuitable due to specific requirements. We expect the city leadership to assist us in resolving this critical issue.

The vending machine measures 72.4 inches in height, 17.3 inches in width, and 17.3 inches in depth. It requires an electrical outlet (preferably on a dedicated circuit) and an internet connection (Ethernet is ideal, but Wi-Fi may also be acceptable). Additionally, due to storage requirements for naloxone, the machine must be maintained within a temperature range of 50 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The machine is secured and only dispenses after user confirms age over 18 and watches a training video. NSHC has secured grant funding to cover all associated costs, including supplies of naloxone, wellness kits, and ongoing maintenance.

The current location at the Patient Hostel is accessible to anyone in Nome 24/7, but we understand the city's concern that this may not be easily accessible to all of Nome. We are open to locations that may not provide round-the-clock access, we would prefer a location with as much access as possible.

T. 907.443.3311 | F. 907.443.2113 | P.O. BOX 966, NOME, ALASKA 99762-0966 | www.nortonsoundhealth.org

NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

Providing quality health services and promoting wellness within our people and environment.

Since our Grand Opening in March of 2024, the naloxone vending machine at the Patient Hostel has dispensed more than 100 naloxone kits and many wellness/prevention kits, significantly supporting sobriety in our community. This success should be replicated in another setting.

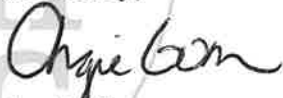
We request the City of Nome's immediate assistance in identifying and securing an appropriate site for this second machine. The ideal location would be a low-barrier public building, such as the Visitor Center or Nome Recreation Center, that can provide the necessary electrical outlet, internet connection, and temperature regulation. We would not consider less welcoming environments, such as the public safety buildings, as a suitable site, as this may deter vulnerable individuals from seeking help.

If NSHC cannot find an appropriate location for the second machine, we will have to explore options for relocating it outside of Nome or returning it to the vendor.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact Megan Mackiernan at mmackiernan@nshcorp.org or 907-443-6414, or Hannah Schnaidt at hschnaidt@nshcorp.org or 907-443-3475 at NSHC.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Angie Gorn
President/CEO

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