



Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby made and entered into between:

The Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON), 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

and

Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services, 3 Killaly Street West, Port Colborne, ON L3K 6H1

Background:

Opioid related deaths have drastically increased in the Niagara Region in the last several years. These preventable deaths can be mitigated by the distribution and use of Naloxone, a drug that can temporarily reverse opioid overdoses. In an effort to reduce the number of lives lost in Ontario due to accidental opioid poisonings, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is providing Naloxone in a nasal spray form and will be provided to Services who work together with Niagara Region Public Health and other community agencies including fire and police services to reduce the opioid related morbidity in the Niagara Region.

This MOU outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON) and Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services TO RECEIVE Naloxone through the Niagara Region Public Health department, and the completion of required reporting as outlined by the RMON and the MOHLTC.

Purpose:

One of the goals of this program is to provide Naloxone to Police and Fire Services as a first response tool to work collectively as a team with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff should they arrive on scene of a suspected opioid overdose victim prior to EMS arrival. The second goal of this program is to provide Naloxone to front line staff as PPE in the event staff come into contact with potentially toxic opioid analogues and EMS is not immediately available to provide treatment.

Program Description:

The program shall be as directed by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care as summarized in the letter dated January 24, 2018. Naloxone distribution and training is for agencies and now fire departments and police who work with people at risk of opioid overdose. Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services will register (with assistance and information from RMON) with the Province of Ontario Naloxone Program and administer Naloxone to an individual in distress as per their Medical Directive, and complete any reporting requirements as established through medical oversight and/or the MOHLTC.

Roles and Responsibilities

The RMON agrees to:

1. Provide Naloxone kits in the form of: (2 x 4mg nasal sprays, gloves, prescription identifier card, and step by step instruction pamphlet). The RMON will be responsible for delivering the Naloxone kits to Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services.
2. The RMON will order and supply Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services with additional Naloxone Kits as needed, and will accept and replace expired kits.
3. The Harm Reduction Lead (HRL) will maintain regular contact with the Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services to assess and maintain inventory, identify any issues, and ensure smooth delivery of the of Naloxone to the community.
4. The RMON will provide Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services with access to a reporting structure and assistance in completing the required MOHLTC reporting.
5. Provide opioid related statistical information as required by Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services.
6. Provide quarterly reports to the MOHLTC in co-operation with and on behalf of Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services.
7. Jointly monitor program results with Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services to ensure the program has the desired impact and to make any necessary program changes.
8. Ensure compliance with the RMON's obligations arising from this MOU.

Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services agrees to:

1. Register with the Province of Ontario as an Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP), via the completion and submission of the supplemental order form for Police and Fire Services. This form is to be completed by Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services and submitted to ONP by the RMON.
2. Fulfil ONP eligibility criteria prior to including the development and/or adopting program-related policies and procedures within Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services including:
 - 2.1 how naloxone would be carried, stored and deployed;
 - 2.2 consulting with legal counsel and other experts about the use of naloxone to prevent overdoses, also potentially to help front-line members in case of exposure to opioids;
 - 2.3 consult with municipal council (especially for fire services) and boards as appropriate;
 - 2.4 arranging training and education of officers and firefighters having access to naloxone;
 - 2.5 Developing and/or adopting program related policies and procedures with the service including how the naloxone will be carried, stored and deployed;
3. Administer Naloxone to members of the public and /or other service members if needed, in coordination with EMS.
4. In addition to the completion of locally required documentation, report data regarding usage of kit at the link below for surveillance purposes.
https://www.niagararegion.ca/survey/health/5_2/rws5.pl?FORM=NaloxoneUse

5. Maintain regular contact with the HRL to assess and maintain inventory, identify any issues and to ensure smooth Naloxone delivery to the service members.
6. Regularly monitor kits in stock to ensure they are not expired, and will return expired kits to RMON.
7. Jointly monitor program results with the RMON to ensure the program has the desired impact and to make any necessary program changes.
8. Ensure compliance with Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services obligations arising from this MOU.

It is understood and agreed, by and between the two parties that:

1. Any modifications to this MOU shall be made by mutual consent between the two parties. A written modification will be created, signed, and dated by authorized officials prior to changes being implemented.
2. Either party may terminate the MOU by providing 30 days' written notice.
3. The MOU does not include any financial obligation.
4. No party may reassign or transfer the responsibilities in this MOU to another party without written consent.

By signing below, both parties confirm their understanding and participation with this MOU.

The Regional Municipality of Niagara

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7

Name and title:

Dr. Mustafa Hirji

Acting Medical Officer of Health

Niagara Region Public Health

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I have authority to bind Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services

3 Killaly Street West, Port Colborne, ON, L3K 6H1

Name and title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____