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For Immediate Release

Media.Relations@pharmacy.ohio.gov

State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, RecoveryOhio Announce Installation of NaloxBoxes in State Office Buildings

Columbus, Ohio — Today, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and RecoveryOhio announced the installation of NaloxBoxes in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts and Rhodes State Office Tower.

The Board and RecoveryOhio, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, installed 9 NaloxBoxes in publicly accessible areas in each building. These boxes equip Ohioans with the tools needed to effectively respond to an overdose using naloxone, a life-saving drug that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.



RecoveryOhio Director Aimee Shadwick and State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven Schierholt next to newly installed Naloxbox.

"The shift to more potent opioids requires solutions that will keep our fellow citizens alive so that they can enter drug treatment," said State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven Schierholt. "As a common-sense way to protect Ohioans, I encourage other organizations to consider installing NaloxBoxes to increase the accessibility of this life-saving medication."

Expanding access to naloxone is critical as Ohio and the country continue to experience the devastating impacts of illicit fentanyl. A powerful opioid, fentanyl is 80-100 times stronger than morphine and contributed to 81 percent of 2020 drug overdose deaths in Ohio.

"Providing lifesaving NaloxBoxes in public spaces, will save lives," said RecoveryOhio Director Aimee Shadwick. "Reversing the impact of illicit, highly potent drugs, will hopefully give individuals the opportunity to seek treatment."

77 South High Street, 17th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

T: (614) 466.4143 | F: (614) 752.4836 | contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov | www.pharmacy.ohio.gov



Installing NaloxBoxes in strategic locations and making naloxone more accessible to Ohioans is an important step in combatting the opioid crisis and decreasing the overdose deaths in Ohio. For more information about installing NaloxBoxes in Ohio, the Board of Pharmacy developed a guidance document that can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/naloxbox.

This announcement builds on efforts made by the state to expand access to naloxone. Last spring, OhioMHAS and RecoveryOhio deployed nearly \$2.5M in funding to the 23 counties in Ohio who were experiencing the highest rates of unintentional opioid overdoses to use for additional supplies of naloxone and the installation of NaloxBoxes.

The Board and RecoveryOhio would like to thank Representative Tim Ginter (Columbiana County) for his sponsorship of [HB 341](#) (133rd General Assembly), which authorized the emergency use of naloxone to combat overdose deaths.

More information about NaloxBoxes can be accessed here: <https://naloxbox.org/>.