

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

The New Shoreham School Committee (NSSC) is aware of increased medical emergencies among all populations due to overdosing of prescription opioids or illegal heroin. To meet any such medical emergency occurring in the Block Island School, the NSSC requires that school health personnel receive training and have on-site resources to immediately treat a student or employee showing symptoms of an opioid-overdose.

I. Proclamation

Albeit an opioid-overdose cannot be predicted, a prepared response by school personnel may save the life and health of a student or employee who is affected by such medical emergency. To meet the challenge of a suspected opioid-overdose in the school setting, the NSSC herein directs the superintendent to assist in the training so school health personnel are prepared to administer, when reasonable, an opioid antagonist and execute follow-up emergency medical procedures in accordance with this policy.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide requirements and directions for the emergency treatment of a student or employee showing symptoms of a possible opioid-overdose.

III. Scope

This policy covers the treatment of an opioid-overdose in the school setting. Included is the ready availability of opioid antagonist and support materials for emergency treatment of a suspected opioid-overdose, training for selected school personnel in administering the antagonist, and the emergency response actions by employees in the presence of a student or employee affected with the symptoms of opioid-overdose.

IV. Definitions

School health department – means the school principal, or designee, working in coordination with the Medical Center.

School setting – means school buildings, school grounds, or school-sponsored events within the Town of New Shoreham.

Symptoms of opioid-overdose – means the presence of acute illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, or coma resulting from consumption of an opioid that requires immediate medical attention

Opioid antagonist – means any drug, such as Naloxone, that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or disinhibits the effects of opioids.

Parent – means the parent(s) of a student and includes natural parent, guardian, or other person acting as a parent in the absence of the natural parent or guardian. Also included is a student’s step-parent who resides with the student.

V. Preparing for Treatment of Suspected Opioid-Overdose – Compliance with RIGL section 16-21-35.

The superintendent, or designee, shall request the school district physician to prepare standing orders for treating a suspected opioid-overdose occurring at Block Island School. The school health personnel shall use the physician’s standing orders to guide the preparation of procedures and protocols to treat an opioid-overdose in the school and shall procure and maintain opioid antagonists, application instruments, and other support materials ready and available for use at secure locations.

VI. Recognizing Symptoms of Opioid-Overdose and the Urgency of Immediate Treatment

The procedures developed by school health department for treating a suspected opioid-overdose shall include instructions for all school employees to recognize the symptoms of an opioid-overdose and the importance of immediate and simultaneous responsive actions needed to save the life of the affected student or employee. School principals and other supervisors shall ensure that Block Island School employees are informed on these instructions, and shall post the instructions at conspicuous places in the school building.

VII. On-Scene Response and Treatment of Suspected Opioid-Overdose

The employee first aware that a student or employee is showing symptoms of opioid-overdose shall call 911 immediately for assistance. The nurse at the Block Island Medical Center or the rescue person trained in administering the opioid antagonist will be automatically noticed and respond. The Medical Center nurse/or rescue personnel shall evaluate the symptoms and, if suspected opioid-overdose is present, administer the antagonist. The school principal shall notify the student’s parents or the employee’s next of kin within a reasonable time.

VIII. Good Samaritan Laws and Parent Responsibilities

School employees performing emergency treatment for students or employees showing symptoms of opioid-overdose are shielded from any civil liability by the state Good Samaritan laws RIGL §§9-1-27.1 and 16-21-35. Furthermore, neither the school personnel nor the school district will be responsible for any costs associated with the medical evacuation or treatment at the receiving hospital. All such costs shall be the responsibility of the student’s parents or the student if age 18 or older. It is also the responsibility of parents to notify the school nurse-teacher of any prescribed opioids in use by their schoolchildren prior to the beginning of the school day.

IX. Reporting and Record Keeping

All on-site opioid-overdose treatment provided to a student or an employee shall be recorded as emergency medical records and shall be stored in accordance with school committee policies: for students, such records shall be recorded by the Medical Center nurse in a log book, and become part of the student’s accumulated health records.

X. Applicable State Laws and RIDOH Regulations, as Amended

9-1-27.1 Good Samaritan – Immunity from liability, and

16-21-35 Opioid-related drug overdose – Use of opioid antagonist - Immunity for those administering.

XI. Dissemination

This policy shall be disseminated to the Block Island Medical Center nurses and all other policy book holders.

XII. Effective Date

This policy shall become effective upon adoption by the NSSC.

Adopted: 7/24/2017

New Shoreham School District, Block Island School