

S.R. 2 (2024)

S.R.2 Naloxone for All: Normalizing Life-Saving Solutions

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ADDRESSED TO:

The Santa Clara University Student Body



S.R.2 Naloxone for All: Normalizing Life-Saving Solutions *October 2024*

An Open Letter to all Santa Clara University Students:

Fall quarter is often referred to as “**the red zone.**” The red zone is the first quarter of an academic year where students are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. This increases the risk of assault and/or overdose. Most parties are open to all students, who increase or begin usage of drugs and alcohol. Incoming students may be unaware of their own limits and safety precautions necessary when regularly attending parties, and many are unfamiliar with the risk of exposure to drugs laced with opioids.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. **It is impossible to know if a drug has been laced with fentanyl by simply looking at it.** Just 2 milligrams, the size of a grain of salt, can be fatal. From 2019 to 2021, California’s opioid-related deaths have more than doubled.

Naloxone, also referred to as Narcan, is a life-saving medicine used to reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone can reverse overdoses from fentanyl, vicodin, OxyContin, methadone, and heroin. College campuses across the nation are recognizing their responsibility to provide access to Naloxone for their students. Since May 2023, Santa Clara University has distributed Naloxone through a vending machine in the lower level of the Benson Memorial Center.

Through the tireless efforts of professors, students, advocates, and staff, Naloxone distribution has increased with a second vending machine installed in the University Library. Distribution has also increased in partnership with the Wellness Center and student organizations. Residence Life Community Facilitators and Neighborhood Representatives now receive training on Naloxone intervention as part of their Summer Formation.

Though these efforts are appreciated, **they are not enough to address the stigma around Naloxone,** which prevents students from feeling safe and secure in accessing and using it. This stigma is a key contributing factor in the increased cases of opioid overdoses and deaths. Our student body, and the demographics we represent, are especially at risk. As a Jesuit institution, we emphasize *cura personalis* and care for the whole student. As *people who stand for and with others,* we must do what we can to support the most vulnerable. This includes students who may not know the risks of opioids and the risks of drug use.

We want all students to be able to identify the **multiple points of access to Naloxone, participate in consistent training, and feel comfortable carrying and administering Naloxone.** It is imperative that we recognize the party culture of our University and work together to ensure each student is safe.

Where can you access Naloxone on campus?

- You can access Naloxone **for free** at all Vending Machines with an ACCESS card tap for up to two boxes a day.
 - Vending Machines can be found in the Basement of Benson and on the First Floor of the Learning Commons and Library.
- The Wellness Center, especially if you're looking for more than a few boxes to distribute to others or maintain in another location.
- At any Residence Hall Front desk while a Desk Assistant is present.
 - DA hours are 5PM-12AM every day.

What are the signs of a potential **overdose**?

- Unconsciousness;
- Slow or shallow breathing, choking sounds;
- Discolored skin, especially at the fingertips and lips;
- Small, constricted pupils that do not react to light.

How can you administer Naloxone to someone who may be overdosing?

1. Remove the Naloxone from the box. Unseal and take out 1 of the 2 nozzles.
2. Lay the person flat on their back and use one hand to elevate their neck slightly.
3. Place the nozzle of Naloxone in their nostril.
4. Press down on the plunger at the bottom of the dispenser.
5. Call Campus EMS at 208-554-4444 if you are on campus. Call 911 if you are off campus.
Naloxone will only reverse an overdose for 20-90 minutes, so they must still receive emergency medical care.
6. Wait 1 minute. If the person has not been revived, administer the 2nd nozzle. Stay with the person until help arrives and turn them on their side to prevent choking..

It is always recommended that anyone using drugs should never be alone. Though one can theoretically self-administer Naloxone, they may be too incapacitated to do so.

There is no danger in administering Naloxone, even if a person is not overdosing. Furthermore, you have professional, civil, and criminal liability protections from the State of California for administering Naloxone. You can attend a training or follow the instructions on the boxes themselves. **By administering Naloxone, you could save someone's life.** Even if you do not think you will ever be in a situation where Naloxone is needed, you never know who will need your help. In over 40% of overdose deaths, someone else was nearby. Having Naloxone available allows bystanders to prevent a fatal overdose and save lives.

As the Associated Student Government, it is our responsibility to continue to advocate for student safety. This includes destigmatizing the accessing, carrying, and administering of Naloxone. We will continue to work with the professors, students, staff, and offices that share in this mission to encourage safety and security for *all* students. What we ask of you, students, is to take advantage of the resources already

available. Carry Naloxone with you, keep it in your room, and talk about it with your peers. Together, we can make Santa Clara University a safer environment for all.

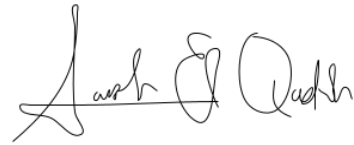
If you or a friend have any questions or concerns regarding Naloxone awareness or access on campus, please contact harmreduction@scu.edu.



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