



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1101 Market Street, Suite 1320

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Tel: (215) 686-9009

Fax: (215) 686-5212

March 1, 2019

Dear Colleague:

I'm writing to let you know that **as of January 1, 2019, all retail pharmacies in Philadelphia are required to stock naloxone** to treat opioid overdose.

Philadelphia is in the midst of a public health crisis. Over 1,200 people died from drug overdoses in Philadelphia in 2017, nearly four times the number of homicides. Nearly 90% of drug overdoses in Philadelphia involve an opioid, including prescription opioids, heroin and, increasingly, fentanyl.

The City is taking many steps to reduce the number of people dependent on opioids. For those people who remain dependent despite these efforts, the City is working to prevent deaths from opioid overdose by making sure the opioid antidote naloxone is widely accessible in Philadelphia. Our efforts build upon Pennsylvania's "standing order" that was issued in 2014 to make naloxone available from pharmacies without an individual prescription.

Last year, the City trained over 2,000 people in overdose recognition and naloxone use. While we know people are interested in carrying naloxone, we continue to hear that not all pharmacies carry this medication. This law – and your assistance – can help put this medication in the hands of more people and save more lives.

The new naloxone law requires that all retail pharmacies:

- Maintain a stock sufficient to fill at least two requests for naloxone; an example of this is 2 boxes of NARCAN, each with two intranasal devices containing 4mg of naloxone per device
- Display a sign issued by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health indicating that naloxone is sold there

We have included a FAQ pertaining to the new law and a copy of the sign. If you would like to print additional copies, you can download it at <http://bit.ly/NaloxoneSign>. If you have questions, please email us at dph.opioid@phila.gov.

Thank you for helping address this health crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Farley".

Thomas A. Farley, MD MPH

Commissioner

Philadelphia Department of Public Health