

COMMUNITY HARM REDUCTION TRAINING TOOLKIT

Pharmacist Invite

PURPOSE: To contact a local pharmacist to see if they will come to your harm reduction event and train attendees on injectable and nasal spray naloxone administration, how to spot an overdose, etc.

A pharmacist or other medical expert should conduct the community harm reduction training event, especially on how to administer naloxone to a person in need. Having a pharmacist on site for the training will also be a great opportunity for you and your attendees to ask any questions they have and to ensure all participants are confident in what to do, should they encounter someone suffering the effects of an opioid overdose. We recommend a pharmacist provides the naloxone training because they are often the most likely person to engage with the general public regarding opioids. If a pharmacist is unavailable, you might want to reach out to a first responder, such as a paramedic, to conduct your training event.

Below is a template of an email to a pharmacist (or first responder), inviting them to attend and conduct the naloxone training.

Subject Line Example: Invitation to Participate in Local Harm Reduction Training Event

Hello [INSERT NAME OF PHARMACIST OR FIRST RESPONDER],

My name is [INSERT NAME] and I am from [INSERT ORGANIZATION] and we are concerned with the rising number of opioid overdoses experienced within our community and across Canada.

With this concern in mind, we would like to organize a community harm reduction training event to help teach our attendees to identify the symptoms of an opioid overdose and to administer the antidote, naloxone, and we would like to invite you to conduct the training with our attendees. The proposed details of our event are listed below:

DATE:

TIME:

LOCATION:

What we would need of you:

- Explain how to identify an opioid overdose
- Demonstrate how to administer naloxone nasal spray
- Demonstrate how to administer injectable naloxone
- Answer questions of our attendees about the opioid crisis from the perspective of a community pharmacist (first responder).

With the number of opioid related hospitalizations in Canada increasing, (in 2018, the increase was estimated at 27% over the previous five years), I am sure you will agree that this training is vital to communities to better educate and equip ourselves on what we can do to help people we encounter that may need our assistance.

We know that the opioid crisis affects people from every walk of life and that it does not discriminate. Families across the country are dealing with the hardship of seeing a loved one suffer due to an accidental opioid overdose, which can affect anyone using opioids, and so we're seeing the effects reach every corner of society.

We hope you are able to attend and support our community harm reduction training event that will be a valuable source of information to our attendees. I will be in touch over the next week to discuss your availability and potential participation in our community harm reduction training event.

Best,

[INSERT NAME]

[INSERT TITLE AND ORGANIZATION NAME]

[INSERT PHONE NUMBER]