



Media Release

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Naloxone Vending Machines: A Lifesaving Tool in Overdose Prevention

Yakima, WA- In 2022, Yakima County had 81 deaths attributed to accidental alcohol/ drug toxicity (overdose) and of those 81, 53 involved fentanyl or fentanyl/methamphetamine (some deaths have multiple drugs). Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the United States.

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications, when given in time. Naloxone is easy to use and small to carry. If someone is experiencing an overdose, community members should call 9-1-1 immediately and then administer naloxone. Washington State's Good Samaritan Law protects anyone who seeks medical assistance for a drug overdose against drug possession charges and protects anyone who administers naloxone.

Naloxone Vending Machines

In response to the local opioid epidemic, the Yakima Health District (YHD) has begun programming related to preventing overdoses in the community. One initiative is to increase access to naloxone. To do so, YHD purchased two naloxone vending machines with Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) funding to provide quick access to this lifesaving medication. YHD has partnered with Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington in Yakima and Yakamart in Toppenish to place these vending machines at their locations listed below, reducing potential barriers, and making naloxone accessible to community members.

These naloxone vending machines will provide free naloxone to community members and

information on how to recognize signs of an overdose, how to administer naloxone and information on treatment.

| Location | Access Hours |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) 717 Fruitvale Blvd, Yakima, WA 98902 | Monday-Friday 7:00am-6:00pm |
| Yakamart 111 Fort Rd, Toppenish, WA 98948 | Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week |

Additional Naloxone Resources

In Washington State, individuals without insurance can order free naloxone online and have it delivered to their home by submitting an order through the [Washington State Naloxone Mail Order](#). For those with insurance, naloxone is available by prescription through a pharmacy or over the counter. The Yakima Health District has more information on pharmacy locations at [www.YakimaHealthDistrict.org/Overdose](#).

Media Event in Toppenish

Yakamart will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, November 1st at 10:00am at their location on 111 Fort Rd, Toppenish, WA 98948. Attendees can expect to learn how to use the naloxone vending machine and hear from Yakama Nation Tribal Councilmembers on the importance of naloxone access in the community.

Quote

“The naloxone vending machines increase access to naloxone. Thank you to our partners in supporting this initiative. Our hope is that all community members understand that overdoses can happen anywhere and to anyone. If you or someone you know is at increased risk for opioid overdose, consider carrying naloxone.” – Andre Fresco, Executive Director, Yakima Health District

Additional Information:

[www.YakimaHealthDistrict.org/Overdose](#)
[Washington State Naloxone Mail Order](#)
[CDC: Lifesaving Naloxone](#)
[www.StopOverdose.org](#)

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