

MDHHS AND EMS LAUNCH 'NALOXONE LEAVE BEHIND PROGRAM'

September 1, 2020 – COVID-19 isn't the only public health emergency occurring in the United States at this time. The opioid epidemic continues to run rampant, devastating the lives of thousands of people across the nation and only continues to worsen during the pandemic.

In the state of Michigan, EMS saw opioid overdoses increase by 33 percent from April to May 2020 and continue to remain elevated even now. EMS' response to opioid overdoses also increased by 22 percent from April through July 2020, compared to the same period last year.

This is why, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are launching the Naloxone Leave Behind Program. This program is intended to prevent further opioid overdose deaths by getting Naloxone, the medication that reverses opioid overdoses, into the hands of those who need it the most.

This program will allow EMS personnel to leave behind get extra Naloxone kits with the patient, family and friends, or bystanders at the scene of an overdose, as survivors of opioid overdose are at a high risk of repeating overdoses. Each kit left behind will include Naloxone and instructions on overdose response.

For more information about overdoses and resources for prevention and treatment, visit Michigan.gov/opioids.

About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.

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