

Many of you may have heard recently about the epidemic of opioid overdoses in our nation. On July 13, 2017, NBC news reported that drug overdose is now the leading cause of death in people under 50 and two-thirds of those are opioid overdoses.

Opioids can cause breathing to slow down to the point that a person stops breathing. There is a drug now available at no cost to us called Narcan. Narcan is a nasal spray that can bring a person out of an overdose situation in less than a minute, thus saving a life. It's very easy to use and cannot cause any harm even if used mistakenly.

We have the opportunity through Alaska's Project Hope to obtain this medication for all of our schools. We are prepared to have all our nurses trained and supplied at our October in-service. They, in turn, would train key personnel in their schools at their administrators' discretion.

Following is a link for the State of Alaska Project Hope site:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/heroin-opioids/narcan.aspx>

Respectfully,

Iris Wertz, RN, BSN
KPBSD Nursing Supervisor