

September 6, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may already know, opioid use and addiction has become a growing concern among the nation's teenagers. Deaths from drug poisoning (overdose) have reached epidemic levels. According to the CDC, from 2015-2016, there was a 28% increase in death rates of individuals 15-24 years of age from illicit drug use. In addition, Pennsylvania is currently the fourth highest State in the United States for drug overdose deaths. These statistics reinforce the need for Naloxone to be kept at the High School again this year. Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a drug that is easily administered via nasal spray. It is used to reduce or reverse the effect of taking too much of an opioid drug, thereby potentially saving the individual's life.

Hickory High School has added Narcan to the list of medications that can be given to students by a nurse in an emergency. While not required by law, this proactive approach by the District proves our ongoing commitment to the health safety and well-being of our students. If you would like more information about Naloxone and its use within school districts please visit the DOH website @ www.health.pa.gov and enter "Naloxone Program for Schools" in the search bar.

For additional questions, feel free to contact our High School Nurse, Patricia Millan, RN at 724-981-8750 ext. 1050.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Bell, Ed.D.
Superintendent