



RECOGNIZING & RESPONDING TO AN OVERDOSE

**If you believe someone is currently experiencing an overdose,
call 911 immediately!**

Recognizing the signs of an overdose could help save a life!

Signs & Symptoms:

- Unresponsive to shouting
- Unconsciousness
- Faint or no pulse
- Extremely small "pinpoint" pupils
- Unresponsive to pain stimulation, such as rubbing the chest with your knuckles
- Slow & shallow breathing or not breathing
- Pale, clammy skin, and loss of color
- Blue, purple, or gray skin, especially around the lips

In the event of a suspected overdose:

1. Call 911.
2. If naloxone (Narcan) is available and you have received training, administer it according to the Tennessee Department of Health [training](#).
3. Start chest compressions if the person is not breathing.
4. If the person is breathing or resumes breathing, turn them on their side.
5. Wait with the person for Emergency Services to arrive.





Don't run, call 911!

The Good Samaritan Law is a Tennessee Law that gives you protections when you offer aid to an overdose victim who has lost consciousness or stopped breathing. You can stop and help!

*Pursuant to the "Good Samaritan" protection law (Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-1-156), "any person who in good faith seeks medical assistance for a person experiencing or believed to be experiencing a drug overdose shall not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for a drug violation if the evidence for the arrest, charge, or prosecution of the drug violation resulted from seeking such medical assistance" AND "any person who is experiencing a drug overdose and who in good faith seeks medical assistance for or is the subject of a request for medical assistance shall not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for a drug violation if the evidence for the arrest, charge, or prosecution of the drug violation resulted from seeking such medical assistance."



What is naloxone?

Naloxone (name brand Narcan) is a rapid opioid overdose reversal medication. It can be administered in the form of a nasal spray or through injection.

The Hamilton County Coalition provides naloxone trainings where you learn how to respond to an overdose and how to administer the medication.