



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10271

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(212) 416-8050

April 3, 2014

Dear Law Enforcement Agency:

I invite your agency to participate in the Office of the Attorney General's Community Overdose Prevention (COP) program. COP was established to fund the training and equipping of eligible law enforcement agencies throughout New York State with nasally-administered naloxone. Naloxone can save the life of a person in the midst of an acute opioid overdose.

Drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of accidental death in the United States for people aged 25-64, with more than 40 percent of those deaths attributed to opioid analgesics. Heroin overdose deaths nationwide increased 55 percent from 2000 to 2010. Here in New York State, it was reported that opioid overdoses killed 2,051 people in 2011, more than twice the number in 2004. In New York City, heroin-related overdose deaths increased 84 percent between 2010 and 2012.

First responders around the country have saved thousands of lives by carrying "naloxone kits" and administering naloxone to opioid overdose victims. Naloxone is a proven lifesaver for people at risk of death from an opioid overdose, including heroin or prescription pain pills. Naloxone provides more time for emergency medical personnel to arrive at the scene and transport the victim to a hospital by temporarily reversing some of the most dangerous effects of an opioid overdose.

Each naloxone kit consists of a zip bag or pouch containing: two vials of naloxone, two mucosal atomization devices for nasal administration, one pair of latex gloves, and a booklet on the use of the drug. A full naloxone kit costs approximately \$60.00 and the shelf life of each kit is approximately two years. Naloxone kits may either be carried by officers on their person or in vehicles driven by officers. Storage of the kits is not burdensome – they merely have to be kept at room temperature.

COP is being funded by \$5 million of crime proceeds seized in joint federal and state criminal investigations. To participate in COP, law enforcement agencies must be enrolled in the US Department of Justice Equitable Sharing Program. COP is designed to cover the cost of initially equipping every eligible law enforcement agency in New York State with naloxone kits and the

replacement of kits used in the field. COP will also cover costs incurred for training law enforcement in the use of naloxone, if necessary. My office is asking that participating law enforcement agencies submit an initial application for COP funding by June 3, 2014.

Heroin and prescription opioids are damaging our communities and we need to do everything we can to fight this destruction. I strongly urge you to take advantage of the COP program to outfit your law enforcement unit with life-saving naloxone to prevent unnecessary deaths in your community from opioid overdose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric T. Schneiderman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Schneiderman" clearly distinguishable.

Eric T. Schneiderman