



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **International Overdose Awareness Day is August 31**

### *CUPHD to Provide Free NARCAN® Kits During Drive-Thru Event*

CHAMPAIGN, IL – The Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD) recognizes August 31 as International Overdose Awareness Day. International Overdose Awareness Day is a campaign that aims to honor the many lives lost to drug overdose by raising awareness about the opioid crisis. The Champaign-Urbana Public Health District is observing this day by distributing NARCAN® (naloxone) to community members empowered to mitigate the impacts of this crisis.

NARCAN®, also known as naloxone, is a medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. It works by binding to the opiate receptors in the brain and blocking the effects of opioids, which allows the individual to restore normal breathing and save their life. NARCAN® is safe to use on someone who is unconscious, making it a crucial tool in overdose response. If a person is administered NARCAN® and is not overdosing on opioids, they will not be harmed.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District will distribute free NARCAN® kits at a drive-thru event on August 31, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Individuals can drive to the south side of the CUPHD building located at 201 West Kenyon Road in Champaign and look for the small shed. Staff will be on hand to provide kits and answer questions. By distributing NARCAN® kits for free, CUPHD equips the community with the knowledge and tools needed to respond effectively to opioid overdoses. This ensures that individuals are well-informed, capable advocates, and can raise awareness about opiate overdose prevention.

Opioid overdoses are a serious public health concern. It is vital to take every opportunity to raise awareness, provide resources, and support those affected by this crisis. Participating in initiatives like the NARCAN® distribution drive on International Overdose Awareness Day can save lives and foster a safer and healthier community.

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For more information: [https://www.overdoseday.com/](https://www.overdoseday/)

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