

# MEDIA RELEASE

April 23, 2020

For Immediate Release

Contact: Butler County General Health District, (513) 863-1770



## Public Health Alert: Potential Increase in Overdose Activity

BUTLER COUNTY, OH - Butler County General Health District and Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services are issuing the following information for situational awareness to the public, persons who use drugs, first responders, hospitals, treatment providers, and other community partners.

While an increase in overdose activity has not occurred in Butler County at this time, overdose surveillance in Hamilton County recently detected the number of preliminary overdose deaths, 911 calls for overdoses, and emergency department visits for overdose related activity all exceeded their expected statistical threshold.

Butler County has not yet noted similar increases. However, historically, Butler County often experiences an increase in overdose related activity shortly after spikes in Hamilton County.

This alert is issued to increase community awareness. Physical distancing requirements and other added stressors due to COVID-19 response efforts, greatly increases overdose risks for many individuals in our community.

Narcan is available and should not be restricted to intravenous users only. Nearly all drugs contain fentanyl, the drug that can cause overdose and death.

If you need Narcan, safe injection supplies, or fentanyl testing strips, please call Regional Exchange Project [513-833-7859](tel:513-833-7859). For Narcan only please call Butler County General Health District 513-863-1770.

If you or someone you know overdoses, you should still call 911 – even if you administer Narcan.

Treatment providers are open and offering services in many innovative ways. If you need help please call the HopeLine 1-844-427-4747.

Service providers and first responders may wish to consider adjusting response capacity and implementing necessary protective measures which should include:

- having available and using necessary personal protective equipment
- being prepared to use multiple doses of Narcan as indicated

Other resources:

Harm Reduction Ohio mail order Narcan <https://www.harmreductionohio.org/get-naloxone/>

Never Use Alone 1-800-484-3731 <https://neverusealone.com>

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