

STATEMENT ON NALOXONE POSSESSION, ADMINISTRATION BY ALCOHOL LICENSED BUSINESSES ON-PREMISES

April 29, 2024

In November 2023, Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a public emergency in response to the deadly opioid epidemic.

To reduce the rate of deaths due to opiate-related overdoses, the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) is **strongly supportive** of alcohol licensed businesses:

- Organizing and/or encouraging their staff to become trained in opioid overdose prevention and the administration of naloxone, a life-saving medication used to reverse an opioid-related drug overdose.
- Having naloxone on hand to administer if an opioid overdose occurs on-premises.
- Posting and distributing overdose prevention and treatment resources such as posters and brochures on-premises.

Accordingly, alcohol licensed businesses that promote, store, or administer naloxone on-premises will not be subject to disciplinary action by ABCA.

The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) makes naloxone widely available and easy to get in pharmacies and community sites across DC at no cost. DBH also hosts regular opioid overdose prevention and naloxone administration trainings which ABCA's investigators and other ABCA personnel have completed.

For more information about DC's strategic plan to reduce opioid use, misuse, and related deaths, visit livelong.dc.gov or email naloxone@dc.gov.


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