



# NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Partners With Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition to Provide Access to Naloxone During Pennsylvania COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Order**

Norristown, PA (April 30, 2020) – The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Offices of Drug & Alcohol and Public Health has partnered with the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition to provide Montgomery County residents access to naloxone during the Pennsylvania COVID-19 stay-at-home order.

Naloxone, also known as NARCAN<sup>®</sup>, is a life-saving medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. In 2015, Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, signed a standing order for naloxone, which enabled individuals to obtain the medication without a prescription.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, Montgomery County health clinics shut down on March 16, 2020, leaving a gap for County residents to access naloxone.

During the Pennsylvania stay-at-home order, residents without insurance or unable to afford the copay at a pharmacy can obtain naloxone by submitting a request to the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition by visiting <https://www.paharmreduction.org/naloxone>.

Individuals requesting naloxone online will receive in the mail a kit with two doses, written instructions on how to administer the medication, resources for accessing treatment and supports, and instructions on how to request another kit if the first one has been used. The Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition will also provide a training video with instructions on how to administer NARCAN<sup>®</sup>.

The Montgomery County HHS is pleased to partner with the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition to ensure that County residents have access to this life-saving medication during the stay-at-home order. Montgomery County is committed to providing access, resources, and treatment for addiction and overdose during this challenging time. For more information, visit: <https://www.montcopa.org/GetNARCAN>.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Pamela Bell, Office of Drug and Alcohol, Program Representative [pbell2@montcopa.org](mailto:pbell2@montcopa.org)

#### **About the Department of Health and Human Services**

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services collaboratively provides an accessible network and resources that fosters, supports, and enhances the health and well-being of Montgomery County residents. For more information about the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, visit <https://www.montcopa.org/hhs>.