



Updated 30/04/2020

Advice regarding overdose COVID 19

Given the risks of both opioid overdose and coronavirus, the HSE has provided the following advice/guidance for anyone who may potentially administer naloxone and give Basic Life Support to those who are symptomatic:

- Call 112/999 and state Covid-19 risk if known
- Perform breathing checks visually only (i.e. not with your ear and cheek to the casualties face).
- If you are required to perform CPR, you should conduct a risk assessment and adopt appropriate precautions for infection control. This includes donning full PPE (gloves, apron, FFP2/N95 mask).
- Apply AED Pads and surgical mask to service user to limit aerosol spread.
- It is recommended that **you do not perform** rescue breaths or mouth-to-mouth ventilation; perform chest compressions only. Medical staff can perform Ambu bagging if they have the equipment and the necessary training.
- Naloxone should be administered if there are signs of opioid overdose. There are no changes to the advice on administering naloxone. IM Naloxone is preferred to Intranasal Naloxone.
- After contact with the individual, doff PPE and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water at the earliest opportunity. Alcohol hand gel is recommended if soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes or nose, unless you have recently cleaned your hands after having contact with the individual.
- If you have been in contact with someone who may be at risk of Covid-19 or if you develop symptoms, you will need to self-isolate and phone your GP.

It is also worth remembering that the majority of people who are still alive but suffering an overdose, are still breathing normally and therefore do not require CPR. These casualties should be put into the recovery position rather than given CPR, with naloxone administered at 2 minute intervals.

For more resources: <http://www.drugs.ie/resources/naloxone/>