



— State of —  
**North Dakota**

*Office of the Governor*

Doug Burgum  
*Governor*

**Executive Order 2017-16**

**Whereas, the United States is experiencing an opioid addiction and drug-overdose epidemic, impacting individuals of all ages and backgrounds; and,**

**Whereas, this epidemic has impacted individual citizens of North Dakota, their families and communities across the state; and,**

**Whereas, opioid use disorder is a devastating and life-threatening medical condition; overdose deaths in North Dakota have more than tripled from 2013 to 2015 and continue to rise; and,**

**Whereas, deaths that result from opioid overdose are often preventable with the use of the opioid antagonist, naloxone; and,**

**Whereas, North Dakota's State Legislature responded to this epidemic with legislation making naloxone available from licensed pharmacists; and,**

**Whereas, Executive branch agencies are responding to this epidemic through collaborative initiatives to promote evidence-based substance use treatment and to provide education and resources to all healthcare professionals, families and individuals dealing with substance use addictions, first responders, law enforcement professionals and community leaders; and,**

**Whereas, the North Dakota Attorney General is responding to this epidemic through participation a multi-state coalition of state attorneys general, investigating the role of opioid drug manufacturers and distributors in this national epidemic; and,**

**Whereas, it is imperative that North Dakota continue to assist citizens struggling with opioid and other substance use addictions, eliminate the associated stigma and remove existing roadblocks that prevent appropriate and adequate care. It is vital that naloxone be available to first responders and individuals who may witness an overdose, coupled with appropriate education and training.**

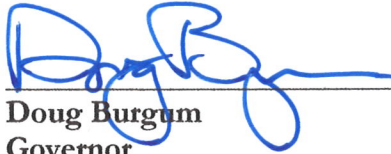
**NOW, THEREFORE, Doug Burgum, Governor of North Dakota, by virtue of the authority granted under Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution, North Dakota Century Code § 37-17.1 hereby direct that all cabinet agencies to collaborate with local and tribal governments and law enforcement to make naloxone readily accessible to first responders, to individual opioid users and their family members and to community leaders.**

This order is issued based upon the foregoing and following conditions:

1. The State Health Officer and the Superintendent, North Dakota Highway Patrol are directed to review internal policies and procedures relating to the use and administration of naloxone by first responders under the jurisdiction of their respective agencies; by January 1, 2018, any discretionary actions that prevent first responders from accessing and administering naloxone will be eliminated.
2. The Executive Director of the Department of Human Services is directed to review internal policies and licensing standards for substance use facilities relating to the use and administration of naloxone; by January 1, 2018, as a condition of State licensure, all substance use facilities shall be directed to provide education and training for professional staff, on identifying and responding to an opioid overdose and the proper administration of naloxone. As appropriate, substance use facilities will provide opioid overdose education and training to patients and family members.
3. The Superintendent, North Dakota Highway Patrol is directed to assist other State, Tribal and local law enforcement agencies to develop naloxone education and training programs.

This order is effective immediately, and it shall remain in effect until further notice.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 26 day of September 2017.



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Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:



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Secretary of State