

## **COVID-19 AND OPIOIDS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

COVID-19 is the disease caused by the coronavirus. It attacks the lungs. For most people, the infection is mild. Older adults and those with long-standing medical conditions may be at risk for more severe disease.

People who take opioids may get sicker if they get COVID-19. If you take opioids or medicines that calm or cause sleep, you could be at risk of life threatening or accidental overdose.

For these reasons, it is a good idea to have naloxone on hand. Naloxone reverses the toxic effects of an opioid. It is a safe drug with a low risk of serious side effects. It is used for people taking high doses of opioids for long-term management of chronic pain as well as for those with addiction.

A doctor or pharmacist can show patients, family members, or caregivers how to give naloxone. It can be given as a nasal spray or as an injection. If you or another family member accidentally overdose on your prescription pain medication, naloxone can be given with life-saving results.

Talk to your doctor to see if you should get naloxone.