

March 31, 2016

Dear New Mexico Law Enforcement,

On Friday, March 4, 2016, Governor Susana Martinez signed legislation to improve access to naloxone. Senate Bill 262 (duplicates House Bill 277) allows licensed prescribers to dispense, distribute, or administer naloxone under a standing order.

Today, the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) issued a statewide standing order allowing all trained law enforcement personnel in New Mexico to administer naloxone to a person experiencing a suspected opioid overdose. Some law enforcement agencies have already implemented naloxone programs for their officers through their agency's medical direction. The purpose of the statewide standing order is to ensure that all law enforcement agencies have access to a standing order for naloxone from a licensed prescriber.

New Mexico had the second highest overdose death rate in the nation in 2014. The majority of overdose deaths involved heroin or a prescription opioid. While Emergency Medical Services respond to 911 calls and provide medical services quickly, many times law enforcement officers are first on the scene of an overdose. As respected and trusted public servants, law enforcement officers in our state are well positioned to administer naloxone and help prevent overdose deaths.

Opioid dependence and abuse is a complex and difficult issue that affects the lives of many New Mexicans. Strategies to prevent overdose and treat opioid misuse disorder must be wide-reaching and multifaceted. Expanding access to naloxone is one of several overdose prevention strategies aimed at combating this major public health issue. Attached to this letter is a copy of the NMDOH statewide standing order and a "how-to" law enforcement guide. Contact Brianna Harrand at (505) 476-3541 or [Brianna.Harrand@state.nm.us](mailto:Brianna.Harrand@state.nm.us) for questions and more information regarding law enforcement naloxone. The New Mexico Department of Health thanks you for serving our communities and playing an essential role in our state's overdose prevention efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Landen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Landen, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist  
New Mexico Department of Health