



Umatilla County Public Health

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Umatilla County Health Department Acquires Life-Saving Opioid Overdose “Rescue Drug” For County Sheriffs in Four Eastern Oregon Counties.

National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) CEO and Executive Director Jonathan Thompson, Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan, and Umatilla County Public Health’s Mike Stensrud, the Eastern Oregon Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Coordinator announced today that the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office will receive Naloxone rescue kits to equip deputies at no cost to taxpayers. Naloxone in the kits can save lives by reversing an overdose from prescription opioids, as well as heroin and fentanyl. The Umatilla County Health Department will deliver the kits to the Sheriff’s Department tomorrow, March 2, 2018 at 2:00pm at the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office 4700 NW Pioneer Place Pendleton, OR 97801.

A new round of funding from Purdue Pharma L.P. is helping the NSA expand its program of offering naloxone kits and trainings in their use free of charge to law enforcement agencies across the country, including 30 kits (60 doses) to Umatilla County. Purdue Pharma has funded the NSA program with \$850,000 nationwide since its inception in November 2015.

Umatilla County Public Health’s Mike Stensrud, the Eastern Oregon Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Coordinator, has worked with regional Sheriffs’ Departments to provide resources for implementing a naloxone program including discussing state naloxone laws, and training requirements. Fred Wilson, Director of Outreach and Law Enforcement Relations with the NSA has served as a direct contact for questions and support. Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, Malheur County Undersheriff Travis Johnson, Umatilla County Sgt. John Shafer, and Union County Captain Craig Ward who have been instrumental in their efforts to build a naloxone program in their respective departments. In addition, Lt. Don Ballou with the Nyssa Police Department has provided a regional example and made himself available to answer questions about naloxone program creation.

Mike Stensrud:

“First and foremost this is about keeping our first responders safe. Recently Oregon State Police stopped conducting drug field tests due to the potency of opioids being trafficked such as

Fentanyl. Simply touching or inhaling extraordinarily small quantities of Fentanyl can cause an overdose. By equipping our Sheriffs with this life saving drug they can respond to emergencies with less apprehension and risk of a contact overdose. They will also have the ability to administer naloxone if they encounter an overdose event and EMS has not yet arrived. It was really a collaborative effort across the board. Each Sheriff's department responded positively and worked aggressively have naloxone available to its officers. Some departments are still ironing out procedures and paperwork but we're all really close to having this project fully implemented."

Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan:

"Thanks to the National Sheriffs' Association and Purdue Pharma, we can now provide our deputies with another tool to fight the opioid crisis," said Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan. "Our officers and support personnel have long been proactive in fighting heroin and other opioids. Now, with this additional support, we can be even more effective. We are grateful for this national support; solving this crisis will take the collective effort of our entire community."

NSA CEO Jonathan Thompson:

"Partnering with the private sector is a crucial step in combatting deaths from an opioid overdose, and we are grateful to be able to continue our successful partnership with Purdue Pharma through their recent funding of an additional \$500,000 toward this life-saving initiative," said NSA CEO and Executive Director Jonathan Thompson. "Since the launch of our pilot program in December 2015 more than 120 lives have been saved."

Chief Medical Officer of Purdue Pharma Gail Cawkwell:

"We're committed to pursuing multiple pathways to address the complexities of opioid abuse and addiction in the U.S. With our support, the National Sheriffs' Association's naloxone distribution program has saved more than 120 lives to date and we are pleased to see the deployment of this important rescue drug in high-need communities," said Gail Cawkwell, Chief Medical Officer of Purdue Pharma. "Purdue will continue to work with policy makers, public health officials and law enforcement throughout the country to implement meaningful solutions to this public health challenge."

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, "Quickly responding to an opioid overdose with the lifesaving reversal drug naloxone is critical. Expanding access to naloxone for first responders and individuals likely to witness an overdose, and training health care providers to prescribe naloxone to at-risk patients, are essential actions to reverse the epidemic."

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

The National Sheriffs' Association is one of the largest associations of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and a total membership of more than 20,000. NSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of criminal justice and public safety. Throughout its seventy-seven-year history, NSA has

served as an information clearinghouse for sheriffs, deputies, chiefs of police, other law enforcement professionals, state governments and the federal government.

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