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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 21, 2023

**SARATOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DISTRIBUTE NALOXONE OVERDOSE
RESCUE KITS**

Overdose Rescue Kits are Free and Training will be Available

CLIFTON PARK, NY -- The Saratoga County Department of Health (SCDOH), in partnership with the Clifton Park and Halfmoon Emergency Corps (CPHM), will distribute free Naloxone Overdose Rescue Kits on Sunday, January 22, 2023 from 10AM to 2PM at the CPHM location at 15 Crossing Blvd, Clifton Park. The distribution event is open to the public and training will be provided.

Naloxone is a safe medication that can save someone's life by reversing the effects of an opioid overdose. It only works on opioids, such as heroin, prescription pain medications and fentanyl, but it is safe to use even if opioids are not present. 911 should also be called after using naloxone. [New York State's Good Samaritan Law](#) allows people to call 911 without fear of arrest if they are having a drug overdose that requires emergency medical care or if they witness someone overdosing.

Individuals who are struggling with opioid addiction or who may have a loved one who is struggling with this addiction are encouraged to attend the event to receive a free kit and training, which takes approximately 15 minutes. Each kit includes two doses of naloxone, a pair of medical gloves, a rescue breathing face shield and a certificate of training. Residents who are unable to attend Sunday's distribution can register to obtain an Overdose Rescue Kit [here](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported a 30% increase in overdose deaths nationally and earlier this week, New York State Department of Health [reported](#) a 14% increase in overdose deaths in the state between 2020 and 2021. The SCDOH issued a Public Health Advisory in response to the identification of an increase in overdoses between January 13 and January 18 in the County. The Advisory can be viewed on the SCDOH webpage, [here](#).

SCDOH and Saratoga County Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services have also developed a Substance Use and Mental Health Resource Directory that individuals and families can use to find area recovery and support resources. The directory is available [here](#).

Saratoga County has made responding to the opioid epidemic a priority. The County has previously announced it will utilize Opioid Settlement Funds to expand efforts to mitigate the growing influence of drugs and addiction in our communities through a variety of innovative programs and investments. The County has multiple efforts underway to raise awareness of the dangers of substance abuse, to provide preventative and treatment measures to residents, and to provide law enforcement the tools and resources needed to combat the growing influence of drugs and alcohol in Saratoga County.

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