



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hon. David Eby, K.C.
Premier of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

May 17, 2024

Dear Premier Eby,

I am writing to you today to emphasize the critical need for immediate availability of nasal naloxone spray (nasal naloxone) to protect the health and safety of British Columbians and urge you to meet with the manufacturers, Emergent BioSolutions (Emergent) and Teva-Naloxone. It is my understanding that Emergent, a company that makes nasal naloxone, has reached out to the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions as well as public health to discuss providing nasal naloxone to British Columbians. Unfortunately, they continue to receive no response despite the company's capacity to provide a crucial life-saving tool that can aid the Province's public health emergency response.

Emergent has expressed its readiness to supply nasal naloxone. Their commitment to guaranteeing a steady supply demands the attention of your government.

In my capacity as a former first responder, I have witnessed firsthand the life-saving impact of nasal naloxone spray. Unlike traditional intramuscular naloxone, which requires precise administration, nasal naloxone offers a simpler and faster delivery method. Under stress, fine motor skills can falter, making the use of needles challenging. Nasal naloxone eliminates this barrier, empowering British Columbians to take immediate action when faced with an overdose.

Alongside increased availability, we need a robust public education campaign on the proper use of all types of available naloxone. While I understand there is a Cornoer's inquest planned, the recent death of a UVIC student displays the lack of public awareness of what to do in the case of an overdose. Nasal naloxone should be readily accessible on post-secondary campuses, including student housing. Students, who are often on the front lines during emergencies, must have easy access and training to this life-saving tool.

The past eight years, since declaring the opioid crisis as a public health emergency, have been devastating for those who have lost loved ones to overdoses. Given the seriousness of this situation, there is no time to delay in making this life-saving tool readily accessible.

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British Columbians expect their government to take immediate steps to save lives. I hope you recognize the importance of nasal naloxone and will connect with Emergent and Teva-Naloxone so that nasal naloxone can be made available for all British Columbians.

Sincerely,



Elenore Sturko, MLA, Surrey South

CC: Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health