



# Division of Capitol Police

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Capitol Police officers getting kits to combat opioid overdoses

**RICHMOND** -- The Virginia Division of Capitol Police announced Friday it is taking steps to train all of its officers to administer an emergency drug designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdoses.

"It is apparent that no segment of society is immune from the devastation of this nation's opioid crisis," said Col. Anthony S. Pike, chief of the Capitol Police. "Equipping our officers with the proper knowledge and emergency treatment tools is another step we can take to help protect our community around Capitol Square."

Lt. Jesse Gilliam will oversee the training of the division's officers which focuses on identifying possible indicators of an overdose of fentanyl or other powerful opioids, and to administer emergency doses of Naloxone, which is marketed under the name NARCAN. The drug can quickly restore normal respiration to someone whose breathing has slowed or stopped as a result of an overdose of powerful opioid pain medications.

Upon completion of training, each Capitol Police officer will be issued a so-called REVIVE! kit, which will include gloves, an instruction card and other items to be used in opioid overdose emergencies. The division's 80 REVIVE! kits are being provided by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Each officer also will be given two doses of NARCAN, each in a nasal spray dispenser, to be kept with the kits.

The Capitol Police K-9 handlers will also be issued kits that can be used if their dogs come in contact with dangerous levels of opioids.

The training certification and distribution of the kits should be completed within a few weeks.

Pike noted that numerous law enforcement agencies in the Richmond region and elsewhere have benefited from the use of emergency NARCAN kits, both on officers and members of the public.

"There is plenty of proof out there that these kits save lives," Pike said. "We need to do all we can to be prepared for these emergencies."

Possible signs of an opioid overdose include a person not being responsive; someone whose breathing is shallow, slow or has stopped; a person who is gurgling or making snoring noises; or someone whose fingertips or lips turn blue or gray. If you encounter someone who may have overdosed on powerful opioids, immediately call 911.

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