

Risk Alert

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FAMU

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
ENTERPRISE RISK
MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF AUDIT

June 7, 2023

Opioid Abatement

On June 2, 2023, Governor Ron DeSantis signed [HB 783](#): Opioid Abatement which takes effect July 1, 2023. This bill creates 1004.0971, Florida Statutes, and details the requirements for Florida College System and State Universities System institutions related to supplying, administering, training and placement of opioid antagonists on campus. The bill expands procurement rules and liability protections for opioid antagonists. FAMU should consider revisions or expansion of policy and procedure, training and awareness, procurement options, and placement of opioid antagonist on campus.

1004.0971, F.S. on Opioid Abatement is a state law in Florida that aims to abate the opioid epidemic and to support the victims of the opioid crisis and their families. The act becomes effective June 1, 2023, and will require FAMU to:

- **Supply** - Have a supply of emergency opioid antagonists with an auto injection or intranasal application delivery system in each residence hall or dormitory residence owned or operated by the institution for the administration of emergency opioid antagonists to a person believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose.
- **Placement** - Place the emergency opioid antagonists in a clearly marked location within each residence hall or dormitory residence. The emergency opioid antagonist must be easily accessible to campus law enforcement officers who are trained in the administration of emergency opioid antagonists.

The law makes two concessions to assist the University in the procurement and liability related to administration of opioid antagonists as follows:

- **Procurement** - Public and private partnerships are encouraged to cover the cost associated with the purchase and placement of such emergency opioid antagonists.
- **Liability Protection** - Any campus law enforcement officer trained in the administration of emergency opioid antagonists who administers or attempts to administer an emergency opioid antagonist in compliance with ss. 381.887 and 768.13, and the institution that employs such officer, are immune from civil or criminal liability as a result of such administration or attempted administration of an emergency opioid antagonist.

It is important to note, that the law requires the Florida Board of Governors to create rules and regulations related to the section 1004.0971, Florida Statutes.




Alert Type

Awareness

Watch

Warning



“It is important for FAMU to take actionable steps to ensure that we not only comply with the new law but that we take steps to fully support our FAMULY by providing training and awareness of the dangers of opioids, the mechanisms and life-saving measures available to assist victims of opioid abuse, and the rights and protections of both students and employees.”

– FAMU Chief Risk Officer Deidre Melton

Risk Mitigation measures associated with the Opioid Abatement law that FAMU can take to mitigate the risks associated with the opioid epidemic and ensure that the university is in compliance with the new Florida law include:

1. **Identify the locations where emergency opioid antagonists will be placed.** This will likely include residence halls, dormitories, and other campus buildings where students live or gather. Consideration should be given to whether or not the university would like to make emergency opioid antagonists available at satellite locations, especially those located in counties with a high rate of drug overdose rates.
2. **Develop and regularly review the university's policies and procedures related to opioid overdose prevention and response.** This will help to ensure that they are up-to-date and that they reflect the latest best practices. Consulting with the Office of Legal Affairs can help to ensure that policies and procedures address any potential legal issues related to these laws and liability to the university.
3. **Develop a plan to procure and distribute emergency opioid antagonists.** This plan should include a timeline for procurement, a budget, and a plan for distribution to residence halls and other campus locations. There are a number of different brands and types of emergency opioid antagonists available, so it is important to choose one that is appropriate for the needs of the university.
4. **Train campus law enforcement officers in the administration of emergency opioid antagonists.** This training should be in accordance with state and federal regulations. This training should be provided by a qualified instructor and should cover the proper use of the specific brand and type of emergency opioid antagonist that the university has chosen.
5. **Monitor the use of emergency opioid antagonists and track any incidents of overdose or other adverse events.** This monitoring will help to identify any areas where the university can improve its opioid overdose prevention program.
6. **Create a system for tracking the use of emergency opioid antagonists.** Tracking should include location, dosage administered, who administered the medication. This will help to ensure that they are being used effectively and that there is no unnecessary waste. Also, perform regular inventory reconciliations to ensure that the correct amount of stock is on hand and to monitor expiration.
7. **Provide education to students and staff about the dangers of opioids and the importance of seeking help if they or someone they know is struggling with addiction.** This education can be provided through a variety of channels, such as presentations, workshops, and online resources.
8. **Develop a communication plan to inform students, faculty, and staff about the new law and the availability of emergency opioid antagonists:** This communication plan should include information about the signs of an opioid overdose, how to administer an emergency opioid antagonist, and where to find emergency opioid antagonists on campus.
9. **Partner with local community organizations that are working to address the opioid epidemic.** This can help to ensure that the university is part of a larger effort to address this issue.

FAMU can help ensure compliance with the new Opioid Abatement law, reduce the risk of legal action or penalties, and mitigate the risk of opioid overdose on campus and save lives by implementing the above steps.



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