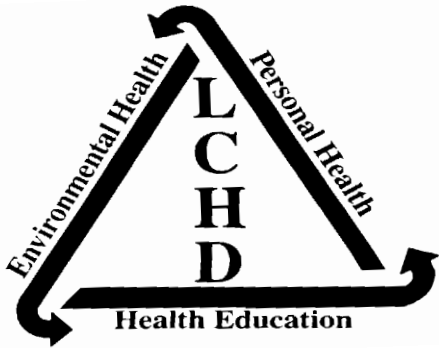


MEDIA RELEASE



Date: February 28, 2019
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“The LaSalle County Naloxone Program 2018 Annual Report”

Ottawa, IL – A summary report of the progress made within the LaSalle County Naloxone Program for the 2018 calendar year is now available on the Health Department’s website at www.lasallecounty.org. Our award winning program was initiated in 2015 from a training request to the Health Department by the LaSalle County Sheriff’s Office. The request was referred to the LaSalle County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator, making the LaSalle County MRC the point organization. The unit developed an Opioid 101 course and gained approval from the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse as well as the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board in January 2016. Full implementation for the program occurred in February 2016.

The LaSalle County Naloxone Program has exceeded expectations of those involved. It continues to train officers, work to change misconceptions about opioid addiction, improve relations with law enforcement and the Medical Reserve Corps, provide avenues for expansion, and, most importantly, save lives. The LaSalle County Medical Reserve Corps is a volunteer organization. MRC programs are community-based and operate as a way to organize and utilize volunteers, medical professionals and non-medical professionals, who want to donate their time and expertise to promote healthy living throughout the year and to prepare for and respond to emergencies. MRC volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources. For information on becoming a MRC volunteer, please contact Matthew Devine, MRC Coordinator at 815-433-3366 ext. 74316.

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