

Public Health Vending Machines: Increasing Access to Health and Wellness Supplies in New York City

Public health vending machines are part of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (NYC Health Department) approach to addressing the overdose crisis. The vending machines are managed by community-based organizations (CBOs) and provide a range of health and wellness supplies to New Yorkers.



What is the purpose of the vending machines?

The vending machines help:

- Reach people who are not connected to harm reduction services or who are likely to witness or experience an opioid overdose.
- Increase access to no-cost health and wellness supplies.
- Reduce stigma by allowing New Yorkers to access harm reduction supplies conveniently and anonymously.

What supplies do the vending machines provide?

The vending machines provide a variety of no-cost health and wellness supplies, including:

- Naloxone
- Safer sex kits (condoms and lubricant)
- Fentanyl test strips
- Sharps containers
- Toiletry kits (such as hygiene and menstrual kits)
- Sterile syringes (select vending machines only)

Where are the vending machines located?

The vending machines are in neighborhoods with high rates of overdose death. Specific locations were selected with feedback from community members, CBOs and the NYC Health Department. For an up-to-date list of vending machine locations, visit nyc.gov/alcoholanddrugs, scan the QR code or call **311**.



How can people access the supplies in the vending machines?

Each vending machine has a keypad people can use to enter their ZIP code to access supplies. Additional instructions and information is posted on each vending machine in multiple languages.

Who can access the vending machines?

All New Yorkers. Only people age 18 and older will be able to access sterile syringes.

Why should my community have a public health vending machine?

Public health vending machines increase 24/7 access to lifesaving supplies:

- Every three hours, someone dies of a drug overdose in NYC. Naloxone is a safe medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.
- In 2001, New York State Public Health Law expanded sterile syringe access. In NYC, access to sterile syringes helped reduce new HIV cases among people who inject drugs by 99% between 2001 and 2020.
- Public health vending machines in other communities that provide sterile syringes have helped reach people who are unlikely to go to pharmacies or harm reduction programs for resources and services.

Will the vending machines encourage drug use?

Research shows that access to naloxone or syringes can reduce opioid overdose deaths and lower the transmission of viral hepatitis, HIV and other blood-borne infections. There is no evidence that access to these supplies increases drug use or risk behaviors.

Are the vending machines monitored or under video surveillance?

No. The vending machines are not under video surveillance. CBOs that manage the vending machines only check them to restock supplies as needed.

Will the vending machines increase syringe litter?

All vending machines that contain syringes provide sharps containers and have a syringe disposal kiosk nearby. Call **311** to report if you find a syringe on public property.

Where can I get more information or ask questions?

Email naloxone@health.nyc.gov or visit nyc.gov/health/naloxone.