



## CHIPPEWA COUNTY Public Health

### News Release

#### For Immediate Release

February 3, 2025

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#### Public Health Kiosk Available for Use in Chippewa County

A new Public Health Kiosk is now available for public use. The Chippewa County Department of Public Health has launched this initiative to provide a variety of essential health and safety supplies, including naloxone nasal spray (Narcan) to reverse opioid overdoses, fentanyl and xylazine testing kits, safer sex kits, feminine hygiene products, medication deactivation bags, firearm locks, and other items to support community well-being.

The kiosk is located at the Chippewa County Jail, 50 East Spruce Street, Chippewa Falls, WI, providing 24/7 access to all community members. "Providing the public with access to items that promote safer communities is a collaborative approach between the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department and Public Health," said Sheriff Travis Hakes. "Things like gun locks and medication disposal bags keep the children of our communities safer. I am proud of the great work that public health does every day, and I am honored to support this process. As the Sheriff, I took an oath to protect our residents, and collaborative efforts such as this are instrumental in public safety."

The machine has been operational since January 17th, and in just a few weeks there has been significant usage, with some of the most popular items being Narcan, firearm locks, and safer sex kits. "Launching the Public Health Kiosk has been made possible through the support of many community partners, it's so rewarding to see the community already utilizing these resources. This kiosk is about meeting people where they're at and providing essential tools to keep our community safer and healthier," said Allie Isaacson, Manager at Chippewa County Department of Public Health.

The health department secured \$50,000 in grant funding last October to establish the kiosk. To ensure a steady supply of resources, additional funding will come from annual Opioid Abatement pass-through funds awarded to the state as part of a class-action lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies. The department will also continue to partner with local organizations to sustain and expand the program. For more details about the department's funding sources, visit the annual report linked on the [Chippewa County website](#).

"This vending machine is a critical step toward improving the health and safety of our community. By providing access to life-saving tools like Narcan, safer sex kits, and hygiene supplies, we're empowering individuals with the resources they need to protect themselves and others, even in challenging circumstances" said Brittnay Fortuna, Director/Health Officer of the Chippewa County Department of Public Health.

Installing a public health kiosk complements the harm reduction work happening in the community. The health department has used grant funding for several years to sponsor overdose prevention training events and distribute naloxone nasal spray. To

learn more about harm reduction efforts in our county visit our [website](#) or contact us at 715-729-7900 or [health@chippewacountywi.gov](mailto:health@chippewacountywi.gov).

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