CITY OF LONG BEACH

Memorandum

Date: February 12, 2026

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager

From: Alison King, Director, Health and Human Services Department

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Expansion of Fentanyl Test Kit Distribution Using Opioid Settlement Funds**

On September 9, 2025, City Council approved an item directing the City Manager's Office to work with the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department) to prioritize $70,000, if available, from opioid settlement proceeds to distribute fentanyl detection kits—as outlined in the May 21, 2025, memorandum—and to return to City Council to appropriate identified funds if necessary.

This memorandum provides a status update on the Harm Reduction Program's Distribution Project, which provides no-cost fentanyl and xylazine test kits, naloxone (Narcan), and overdose prevention education to Long Beach residents. This expansion builds upon the May 2025 program update by extending the existing fentanyl testing and naloxone distribution program to include a mail-based delivery option. The project directly responds to City Council's request and addresses concerns regarding equitable access to harm reduction supplies for residents, who are most impacted by opioid-related overdoses and deaths.

Project Overview

Fentanyl detection kits are all-in-one devices that allow individuals to identify the presence of fentanyl in medications, drugs, or substances prior to use, reducing the risk of accidental opioid overdose and death. Since December 2023, the Health Department's Harm Reduction Program has distributed more than 6,000 units of naloxone and over 13,000 fentanyl test kits through in-person outreach, community events, and online ordering for pickup at Main Health and the Ron Arias Health Equity Center in North Long Beach.

These efforts, delivered in tandem with harm reduction education, treatment linkage, and overdose prevention training, have contributed to reductions in opioid-related overdoses and overdose deaths in Long Beach. Program implementation is informed by close collaboration with the Long Beach Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services, using overdose surveillance data to identify impacted populations, geographic trends, and substances involved. This data is shared with community-based harm reduction and treatment partners to guide focused outreach efforts and supply distribution.

At the request of City Council, Health Department staff conducted a feasibility review to expand access to harm reduction resources for residents who have not utilized in-person

distribution options. The proposed expansion introduces a discreet mail-based delivery model that allows residents to request a package containing fentanyl and xylazine all-in-one test kits, naloxone, a CPR face shield, and educational materials. Packages will be mailed discreetly (in plain packaging with minimal labeling) to eligible addresses within Long Beach zip codes.

The program proposes allocating $70,000 in opioid settlement funds to distribute more than 11,000 mail-based kits to residents. A small pilot program demonstrated a strong demand, with requests submitted quickly after launch and additional interest expressed by participants in the in-person pickup program. Most orders were filled within 48 hours and delivered within one to three business days. Participant's feedback indicated that the process was accessible and easy to use. While package theft was noted as a concern, no losses were reported during the pilot. Staff will continue to monitor operations and address any logistical challenges as the program is expands.

Focus Population and Use

The expanded distribution effort will prioritize Long Beach residents with mailing addresses in 90802, 90813, and 90805, which have experienced the highest rates of opioid-related overdoses and deaths. Outreach and promotion will include social media, coordination with City Council district communications, community events, and pop-up outreach activities.

Preliminary data from 2022 to 2024 on opioid-related overdose deaths that occurred in Long Beach shows that approximately 53 percent of opioid-related overdose deaths occurred in residences, while 10 percent involved individuals identified as being unhoused. Distribution for people experiencing homelessness is currently addressed through existing street-based outreach, the Multi-Service Center (MSC), and partner programs, including LA CADA. The mail-based delivery expansion is intended to complement these efforts by reaching residents who have not historically accessed harm reduction supplies through in-person outreach and to reduce overdose risk within private residences.

Funding and Fiscal Details

Health Department leadership confirms that $70,000 in opioid settlement funds is available and will be used to support the mail-based distribution of harm reduction supplies. Naloxone is provided at no cost through the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) as part of the settlement agreement. Additional fentanyl and

xylazine test kits will be purchased through existing vendors, along with disposable CPR face shields and educational materials. Each kit, including shipping and handling, is estimated at $6.25. The project will operate during Fiscal Years 2025–2026 and 2026-2027, with the potential for continuation based on program outcomes and funding availability.

Procurement and Implementation

The program leverages existing vendor relationships used for the current in-person distribution model, as well as partnerships with DHCS for supply provision. Shipping services will be managed through a new partnership with the United States Postal Service. Upon completion of final approvals and coordination, the program is scheduled to launch in February 2026 and continue through the remainder of the calendar year.

The project will be overseen by the Harm Reduction Program in the Communicable Disease Surveillance and Control Division within the Communicable Disease and Emergency Response Bureau.

Risks, Considerations, and Limitations

Project implementation is contingent on available supplies and funds; however, no current inventory shortages are anticipated. Educational materials are available in English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Khmer, and overdose prevention workshops are offered monthly. The mail-based project includes DoseTest all-in-one fentanyl test pouches, which are designed to be portable, easy to use, and accompanied by clear instructions, supporting safer-use decision-making when combined with harm reduction education and other overdose prevention strategies. The naloxone nasal spray is safe to administer, non-addictive, and carries no known risk of allergic reaction or serious side effects. Administration of naloxone in an emergency is protected under California's Good Samaritan Law.

Next Steps

Health Department staff recommend a phased launch to monitor demand and address any shipping or operational challenges prior to full-scale implementation. Initial outreach will prioritize Downtown and North Long Beach, followed by West Long Beach and additional areas as capacity allows. Program performance will be reviewed monthly, and updates will be provided to City Council or individual district offices as requested.

If you have any questions, please contact Ismael Salamanca, Harm Reduction Program Supervisor at ish.salamanca@longbeach.gov.

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