

BREAKING Republic Services employee dies at Bettendorf facility

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Branstad to sign opioid overdose prevention bill today

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Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad is scheduled to sign into law Wednesday an opioid overdose prevention bill that will expand the possession and use of naloxone, an opioid inhibitor, to include family members of those people addicted to opioids such as heroin.

Branstad is scheduled to sign Senate File 2218 into law at 9:40 a.m.

Instead of only paramedics and physicians, the new law will allow anyone in a “position to assist” such as a family member, friend, caregiver, health care provider or “other person who may be in a place to render aid to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose,” to possess and use a naloxone hydrochloride product on the person.

The new law also provides immunity from legal liability for those people providing the drug as long as their actions were reasonable and in good faith.

One of the more popular naloxone products is called Narcan Nasal Spray produced by ADAPT Pharma of Radnor, Pa.

Davenport Fire Department Capt. Todd Witchelo said the nasal spray is superior to other products as it can be sprayed into a person’s nostrils and the effect is virtually immediate. “We’re pumping their chest one minute, and the next they’re up walking to the ambulance,” Witchelo said.

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