

1 [Administrative Code - Departmental Overdose Prevention Policies]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Department of Public**  
4 **Health, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Human Services**  
5 **Agency, and Department of Emergency Management to develop and submit to the**  
6 **Board of Supervisors departmental overdose prevention policies.**

7 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
8 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
9 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
10 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
11 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
12 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
13 subsections or parts of tables.

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12 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

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14 Section 1. Findings.

15 (a) According to data from the Office of the Medical Examiner, the number of people  
16 who have died from drug overdoses in San Francisco has been rising at a staggering rate. In  
17 2017, 222 people in San Francisco died from a drug overdose. In 2020, 697 people in San  
18 Francisco died from a drug overdose. This represents more than a tripling of the death rate in  
19 only three years, such that deaths from drug overdoses now average nearly two a day, and  
20 nearly 60 a month.

21 (b) Fentanyl, which is estimated to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine,  
22 entered the San Francisco market around 2015, causing eleven deaths that year. In 2016,  
23 the number of fentanyl overdose deaths in San Francisco doubled, reaching a total of 22. In  
24 2020, 502 people were reported to have died in San Francisco as a result of overdose from

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1 use of fentanyl. Thus, in five years, fentanyl overdose deaths in San Francisco increased by  
2 4500%.

3 (c) This is a public health crisis of major proportions that is out of control. The  
4 number of people who died from a drug overdose in San Francisco in 2020 was more than  
5 three times the number of people who died in San Francisco from COVID-19 that same year.

6 (d) Based on data showing the addresses of fatal drug overdoses in San Francisco  
7 over the first eight months of 2020, 111 people died on sidewalks or alleys, or in parks or cars;  
8 296 people were found dead in homes or hotels, many in supportive housing in the  
9 Tenderloin; and 60 people were pronounced dead at hospitals.

10 (e) Consuming drugs alone while sheltering-in-place during the COVID-19  
11 pandemic almost certainly amplified the overdose death risk of strong drugs; more than half of  
12 the 561 deaths from accidental overdoses during the period January - October 2020 occurred  
13 indoors.

14 (f) A 2019 study published in Drug and Alcohol Dependence surveyed overdose  
15 mortality among residents of single room occupancy (SRO) buildings in San Francisco during  
16 the period 2010 – 2017, and found that overdose mortality was substantially higher among  
17 SRO residents as compared to non-SRO residents, and that SRO residents were also more  
18 likely to die from overdosing at home than elsewhere.

19 (g) A 2019 study published in the Journal of Urban Health examined the  
20 acceptability, feasibility, and implementation of the Tenant Overdose Response Organizers  
21 (TORO) program facilitated in ten SROs in Canada. That study concluded that the overdose  
22 response interventions used by the TORO program, including peer-led overdose prevention  
23 and response trainings, wall-mounted naloxone for emergency response, and peer-led  
24 support groups, are effective tools in addressing overdose risk in SROs. The study also  
25 concluded that tenants who had participated in the program and were taught about opioid

1 overdoses were better able to respond to overdoses and contribute to wider community  
2 responses. This study helped inform the DOPE (Drug Overdose Prevention and Education)  
3 Project’s SRO initiative in San Francisco.

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5 Section 2. Chapter 15 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
6 Section 15.17, to read as follows:

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8 **SEC. 15.17. DEPARTMENTAL OVERDOSE PREVENTION POLICIES.**

9 By no later than December 31, 2021, and every year thereafter, the Department of Public  
10 Health, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, the Healthy Streets Operation  
11 Center through the Department of Emergency Management, and the Human Services Agency shall  
12 each submit to the Board of Supervisors a departmental policy describing how the department and its  
13 grantees that provide direct services to clients who use drugs will promote strategies to reduce drug  
14 overdoses (“Overdose Prevention Policy”), along with a resolution to accept transmission of the  
15 policy. Each departmental Overdose Prevention Policy shall, to the extent applicable to the  
16 department’s activities:

17 (a) Address how departmental programs will provide drug treatment and harm reduction  
18 programs and services;

19 (b) Describe where the department will post the following materials to ensure that they are  
20 available and accessible to all clients:

21 (1) Up-to-date information about the location and schedule of syringe access and  
22 disposal services; and

23 (2) Up-to-date referral information about naloxone access and the schedule of  
24 overdose prevention and naloxone distribution services;

