



730 N. Pawnee St, Taylorville, IL 62568

Phone: 217-824-4113 Fax: 217-824-5407

MEDIA RELEASE

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CHRISTIAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS HARM REDUCTION VENDING MACHINE

Taylorville, IL - The Christian County Health Department has installed a new harm reduction vending machine. The machine is located outside the Health Department building, providing free, 24/7 access to lifesaving overdose prevention supplies for the community.

The vending machine offers naloxone (Narcan®) and fentanyl test strips for free, along with other public health and safety items most of which are available at no charge. The machine can be accessed anonymously at any time, day or night.

This initiative was funded through the Christian County States Attorney's Office using resources from the Opioid Settlement Fund.

"By making these supplies available around the clock, we are removing barriers and ensuring that lifesaving tools are accessible when and where they are needed most," said Dr. Chad Anderson, Public Health Administrator. "Naloxone and fentanyl test strips save lives, and this vending machine is another step toward protecting the health and safety of our community."

Naloxone can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, while fentanyl test strips allow individuals to detect the presence of fentanyl in substances, helping prevent accidental overdoses. Public health research consistently shows that access to harm reduction tools reduces overdose deaths and increases engagement with health and recovery services.

The vending machine is part of the Christian County Health Department's broader commitment to addressing substance use disorder through evidence-based strategies, education, and community partnerships.

For more information, please contact the Christian County Health Department 217-824-4113