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Winnebago County Public Health Unveils Public Health Vending Machines in Oshkosh and Neenah

OSHKOSH, WI. (September 20, 2024) – Winnebago County Public Health has unveiled new free community resources at two locations today. Public Health Vending Machines (PHVM) are located outside of the David W. Albrecht Administration Building at 112 Otter Avenue in Oshkosh and the Winnebago County Human Services Building at 211 N Street in Neenah.

The PHVM are meant to provide people access to items that will help create a safer and healthier community for everyone. Items available include nasal Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, DETERRA drug deactivation kits, gun locks, lock bags, feminine hygiene products, and basic needs kits.

"In 2023 47 people died of an overdose in Winnebago County," said Doug Gieryn, director/health officer, Winnebago County Public Health. "Each of those deaths has long-term implications for the person's friends, family, and the overall community. The PHVM's are aimed at preventing death as increasing access to Narcan and Fentanyl Test Strips is one of the most effective tools available to combat the opioid epidemic."

Many Wisconsinites do not seek assistance or services for their substance use due to a fear of being recognized, shamed, judged, and arrested. By providing low-barrier anonymous access 24/7, the PHVM offers life-saving tools for all people within Winnebago County. The temperature controlled PHVM can be accessed by using a unique PIN code. Anyone can receive a PIN code by calling the PHVM Hotline at 920-232-3313. The conversation and information provided will remain confidential.

Winnebago County Public Health was awarded \$80,000 in grant funds from the Wisconsin Department of Human Services to pay for the PHVM. The grant money comes from the state's \$400 million opioid settlement.

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For additional information, please visit wchd.pub/PHVM.