



CITY OF RICHMOND
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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Richmond City Sheriff's Office is piloting the use of OPVEE®.

Richmond-According to Sheriff Antionette Irving, “OPVEE® is a new tool in our toolbox to provide rescue and save the lives of those experiencing opioid or fentanyl overdoses.” OPVEE® is for emergency treatment of known or suspected overdose induced by natural or synthetic opioids in patients 12 years and older, as manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression (by an average of 98.9% at 5 minutes, with full recovery as early as 5 minutes but within 5-15 minutes, a long half-life of 11.4 hours as illicit fentanyl is about 7.5 hours).

OPVEE® is for immediate administration as emergency therapy in settings where opioids may be present and is not a substitute for emergency medical care. The nasal spray may be used every 2-5 minutes if no response and there is a need to re-administer.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office was the first Law Enforcement Agency to deploy this in the Country. This drug is like Narcan (Naloxone) as it blocks the effects of opioids to the brain. It is the first and only nasal opioid rescue medication for synthetic opioids such as fentanyl in addition to non-synthetic opioids. OPVEE® is a game changer as it is a strong tool used to help guard against a possible overdose.

Sheriff Irving and the Richmond City Sheriff's Office will be the first Law Enforcement agency in Virginia to use OPVEE. We look forward to working with our public safety partners and local hospitals to help sustain the quality of life of our residents and citizens in the city.

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