



For Immediate Release
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South Milwaukee Introduces Public Health Vending Machine to Improve Equity and Access to Health

South Milwaukee, WI – The City of South Milwaukee is committed to making public health supplies available to anyone and everyone who needs them. With that commitment in mind, the South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department secured grant funding to place a public health vending machine outside of the City of South Milwaukee Municipal Building (City Hall), located at 2424 15th Avenue. Placement of the vending machine at City Hall was unanimously approved at the South Milwaukee Common Council meeting on September 3, 2024.

The public health vending machine offers the following items at no cost: nasal Narcan (Naloxone), fentanyl test strip kits, Deterra medication disposal bags, gun locks, and condom kits. These items are always available for free at the Health Department; now, they will be available outside of normal business hours.

“The Health Department appreciates this opportunity from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and is excited to be able to offer our residents the option of obtaining these life-saving items 24/7,” said Jacqueline Ove, Public Health Administrator for the South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department. Mayor Jim Shelenske also shared words of encouragement, saying, “By installing a public health vending machine outside City Hall, we’re ensuring that essential health supplies are accessible to our residents 24/7 – because wellness shouldn’t depend on the time of day.” He also added that he appreciates the Health Department for applying for this grant and the Common Council for their support.

City Hall was chosen to highlight South Milwaukee’s commitment to break down some of the stigma and barriers that come along with accessing harm reduction and public health supplies. While the vending machine provides convenience and anonymity, staff members at the South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department will continue to be available to help community members navigate specific health needs and provide education, as needed.

The vending machine officially opens for use today and all community members are encouraged to visit and take home any items they may need.

For questions, contact the South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department at 414-768-8055 or visit the [South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department website](#).

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