

Drug Alert

March 22, 2019

Alert: Toxic Fentanyl Mix

There have been reports about people experiencing severe overdoses after using pink-purple fentanyl in downtown Toronto. These overdoses usually occur immediately after using.

In response, The Works/Toronto Public Health worked with the laboratory at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health to have a residue sample from used injection equipment tested. The analysis showed that the major components were carfentanil and caffeine, with fentanyl, heroin and heroin-related opioids also present.

Advice for people using drugs

- Use a supervised consumption service (SCS) or an overdose prevention site (OPS). See the attached list.
- Use with someone else and take turns spotting for each other. If you must use alone, have someone check on you.
- Get naloxone. Agencies that have it include: The Works, Parkdale-Queen West CHC, Regent Park CHC, South Riverdale CHC, Fred Victor, Eva's Satellite, Sistering, Sherbourne Health Centre, Seaton House, and 129 Peter Street.
- You can also get a free naloxone kit at a pharmacy. Find out where at: www.ontario.ca/page/get-naloxone-kits-free.

In an overdose situation, get help immediate:

Call 911. Give naloxone. Stay with the person.

It is essential that all overdoses get medical attention.

Toronto Public Health continues to monitor data and community reports. If you know about an unexpected reaction or overdose, tell a harm reduction worker about it.

You can also make an anonymous report online at ReportBadDrugsTO.ca.

