

# Drug Alert

January 14, 2019

## Fentanyl / heroin causing concerning reactions

There have been many reports made to harm reduction services about drugs sold as fentanyl or heroin causing reactions of concern. Symptoms happen quickly after use, and include:

- Severe anxiety, hallucinations, memory lapses, erratic behaviour, etc.
- Rapid heart rate, shortness of breath.

There has been no consistent appearance of the drug reported.

- In many cases, it was dark purple, both before and after being cooked.
- The drug was also reported as white with brownish specks when uncooked, and a brownish colour when cooked.

### 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](http://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](http://ReportBadDrugsTO.ca).



*The Works*  
- Needle Exchange