

March 24, 2023

OPIOID/DRUG SAFETY UPDATE

For the week of March 13, 2023 to March 19, 2023, there was a higher than expected number of calls to Paramedic Services for suspect opioid overdoses. "Purple Fentanyl" was mentioned on one of the calls. Additionally, two suspect drug-related deaths were reported by the Office of the Chief Coroner. One of the deaths included an individual staying at a shelter in York Region.

If you have any additional information to share, including any concerns from the community with respect to emerging drug trends, connect with us at substance@york.ca.

Please exercise extreme caution when obtaining drugs from the unregulated supply.

Remember:

- **Carry naloxone**
 - Naloxone only works on opioids. However, naloxone should be administered to a person experiencing an overdose to reverse the effects of any opioids that may be present in the substance
 - Additional doses of naloxone may be needed to reverse an overdose as potent opioids are being found in the unregulated drug supply. Call 1-877-464-9675 X 76683 or email substance@york.ca to get naloxone kit(s)
- **Abuddy system is safer than using alone.** Use substances with someone else and take turns spotting for one another
 - If you're alone, consider reaching out to the **National Overdose Response Service** (1-888-688-6677). This service will support you over the phone and call 911 if needed
 - Visit your closest [Supervised Consumption Service](#)
 - If possible, follow the most up-to-date Public Health COVID-19 guidance at york.ca/covid19
- Before using, **ask others about what they are experiencing** with the same drug or batch

If you are feeling depressed, lonely, anxious, scared, angry, or have other mental distress, call **310-COPE** at

PUBLIC HEALTH
york.ca/opioids

1-855-310-2673 or (TTY)
1-866-323-7785.

Report a bad reaction to drugs or overdose concerns to [York.ca/ReportBadDrugs](https://york.ca/ReportBadDrugs).