

May 12th, 2023

OPIOID/DRUG SAFETY UPDATE

For the week of May 1st, 2023 to May 7th, 2023 there were four suspect drug related deaths in York Region, reported by the Office of the Chief Coroner. This is a decrease from the week prior, though it is still unusually high. Additionally, there was an increase in the number of calls to Paramedic Services for suspect opioid overdoses.

In follow-up from the eight suspect drug related deaths noted in last week's opioid/drug safety update, York Region Public Health has received information from YRP on two samples analyzed by Health Canada thus far. The results showed Fentanyl, Bromazolam, Para-Fluorofentanyl and Xylazine among other substances and contaminants.

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.