

November 25, 2021

# Warning

## DRUG/OPIOID SAFETY

There has been a recent significant and sudden spike in suspected drug-related deaths in Toronto east of Yonge St. Data from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario shows 16 suspected drug-related deaths from November 8-14 in areas including Scarborough, North York, East York, and the downtown east.

Toronto's Drug Checking Service (<https://drugchecking.cdpe.org/>) has found that recent yellow fentanyl samples collected in the downtown east, and associated with overdoses contained flualprazolam in combination with fentanyl or etonitazepine. Flualprazolam is a high-potency, short-acting benzodiazepine-related drug. There have also been recent reports about people experiencing severe overdoses after using yellow fentanyl. See the November 23 [Toronto Drug Alert](#) for more information.

Yellow fentanyl associated with severe overdose



Photo credit: Moss Park CTS

### Remember:

- Carry naloxone
  - Call York Region Public Health for naloxone and other harm reduction supplies at 1-877-464-9675 ext.76683
- A buddy system is safer than using alone. Use substances with someone else and take turns spotting for one another
  - If possible, stay six feet from your buddy if you're not from the same household to reduce COVID-19 transmission
  - If you're alone, consider reaching out to **The Krasman Centre Safer Use Peer Support Line** (1-888-233-5633) or **National Overdose Response Service** (1-888-688-6677). These services will support you over the phone and call 911 if needed
- 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

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

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
[york.ca/opioids](http://york.ca/opioids)

20-5143

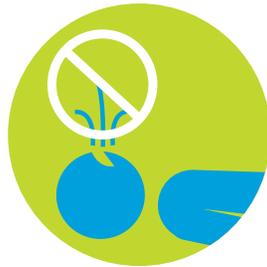
**York Region**

TWO STEPS TO HELP  
**SAVE A LIFE**  
**OPIOID OVERDOSE**  
DURING COVID-19

**STEP 1 :**  
Look for signs of an **OVERDOSE**



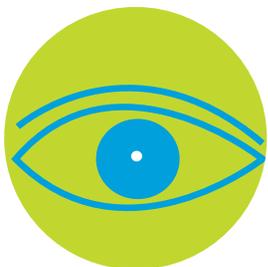
Not moving and  
can't be woken



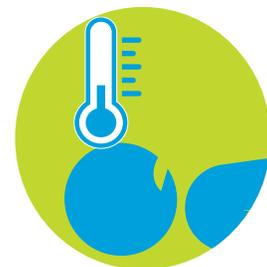
Slow or not  
breathing



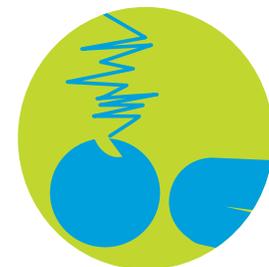
Blue or purple lips  
and nails



Tiny pupils



Cold or clammy skin



Choking, gurgling  
sounds or snoring

Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction

Visit: [york.ca/opioids](https://york.ca/opioids) or

Call: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 76683

TTY: 1-866-512-6228

Email: [substance@york.ca](mailto:substance@york.ca)

# STEP 2:

## Follow these steps when giving NALOXONE



Tap and shout



Call 911



Give naloxone: 1 nasal spray\*  
or injection into arm or leg



Chest compressions\*\*



Is it working?  
YES



**NO** improvement? Give naloxone  
again, continue chest compressions  
and check in 2 - 3 minutes



**PUT PERSON IN  
RECOVERY POSITION (LEFT SIDE)**

**IF:** they begin breathing on their own or  
if you have to leave them alone.

**\*GIVING NASAL NALOXONE DURING COVID-19 DOES NOT PRODUCE AEROSOLS.  
\*\*AT THIS TIME WE DO NOT RECOMMEND GIVING RESCUE BREATHS. PERFORMING CHEST  
COMPRESSIONS DURING CPR IS NOT DANGEROUS.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

York Region Public Health Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction program:

[substance@york.ca](mailto:substance@york.ca) or 1-877-464-9675 ext. 76683

Report Bad Drugs: [york.ca/reportbaddrugs](http://york.ca/reportbaddrugs)

Connex Ontario: [connexontario.ca](http://connexontario.ca) or 1-866-531-2600