



## LET'S TALK ABOUT FENTANYL

### FENTANYL IS IN YUKON.

By now we've all heard about fentanyl, a powerful painkiller and dangerous drug that has caused thousands of deaths across Canada.

Fentanyl is here, on Yukon streets, and drug users may have access to it. It is a powerful painkiller. It can only be used safely when prescribed by a health professional and taken as directed.

Fentanyl is **very dangerous** for drug users, especially for who haven't used drugs before, like youth. It is extremely toxic when not used properly. Even a small amount, about the size of two grains of salt, is enough to kill someone.

A new trend is to mix, lace or cut other illegal drugs with fentanyl. Many people have died after taking cocaine, ecstasy or heroin because fentanyl was mixed into these drugs. You can't see, smell or taste fentanyl, but if it's in other drugs, your first trip could be your last. Drug dealers may not even know that the product they are selling contains fentanyl.

Blood Ties Four Directions (405 Ogilvie Street) offers a free Drug Checking Service that uses fentanyl test strips. The service is confidential and anonymous from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

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### TIPS TO TALK TO YOUTH:

Talk to your children about fentanyl and other drugs to help keep them safe. Everyone should learn how to recognize and respond to someone who has overdosed on fentanyl.

- Be open, calm and ask questions. Do not blame, shame or lecture
- Ask what they might know about fentanyl or other drugs
- They are experts about their worlds. Listen to them, you might learn from them
- Tell them you care about them, speak from your heart
- Remind them that fentanyl may be hiding in street drugs
- Help them identify early overdose signs and tell them to never use alone

### OVERDOSE SIGNS:

- **Breathing** will be **slow** or **absent**
- Person is not **moving**
- You may **hear gurgling sounds** or **snoring**
- **Skin** feels **cold** and **clammy**
- **Lips** and **nails** are **blue**
- **Person** may be **choking**
- **Can't be woken** up
- **Pupils** are **tiny**

**Call 911 Immediately**

**You can save someone's life.**





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### TAKE-HOME NALOXONE KIT:

Free take-home naloxone kits are available across Yukon. To find a distribution sites visit: [www.hss.gov.yk.ca/fentanyl.php](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/fentanyl.php) or at [www.knowyoursource.ca](http://www.knowyoursource.ca) or stop at Mental Wellness and Substance Use Service (Sarah Steele Building, 609 Steele Street) or at your Community Health Centre.

Naloxone is a safe drug used to temporarily reverse overdoses caused by opioid drugs. It can buy time and save lives before the paramedics arrive. Naloxone acts fast (usually within 3-5 minutes), and the protective effect lasts for 20 to 90 minutes. It is not a substitute for immediate medical attention as it is a temporary treatment that quickly wears off: **always call 911 if you have used a naloxone kit.**

A 20 to 40-minute training session to learn how to use the kit and identify the signs of overdoses is offered when you pick-up your free kit.

| The Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator offers public training on how to use the take-home naloxone kit, every Wednesday at Sarah Steel Building (609 Steele Street) starting at 4:15 p.m. |

### RESOURCES

#### Opioid, Fentanyl & Overdoses

[www.knowyoursource.ca](http://www.knowyoursource.ca)

[www.hss.gov.yk.ca/fentanyl.php](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/fentanyl.php)

[towardtheheart.com/opioid-od-awareness](http://towardtheheart.com/opioid-od-awareness)

[www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/problematic-prescription-drug-use/opioids.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/problematic-prescription-drug-use/opioids.html)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MENTAL WELLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES AT 1-866-456-3838

