



COMMUNITY NOTICE

For Immediate Release:

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CORNWALL POLICE SERVICE & EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT WARN ABOUT INCREASED OVERDOSES IN CORNWALL & AREA

The Cornwall Police Services (CPS) and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) are warning residents about an increase in drug-related overdoses in and around the City of Cornwall. Many of the overdoses have been linked to opioids like “purple heroin” or “purple,” a substance that is a dangerous mix of fentanyl, benzodiazepines, and other substances. CPS and EOHU have also received reports of other substances which come in a variety of colors beyond purple.^[1]_{SEP}

OVERDOSE PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS:

- *Never use alone.*
- *If you are going to use alone, call the National Overdose Response Service at 1-888-688-6677. A non-judgmental peer will stay on the line with you for approximately 30 minutes to provide support if needed.*
- *Use only where help is available.*
- *Don't mix drugs.*
- *Take a test dose and wait before taking more of the drug.*
- *Get a free naloxone kit that can help to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.*
- *Use only new drug paraphernalia supplies and avoid sharing supplies to reduce the risk of getting or passing an infectious disease.*

SIGNS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE:

- *User may be nodding off, not waking up easily, or unresponsive.*
- *Breathing very slowly or not at all.*
- *Lips and fingernails may be blue/gray.*
- *Skin may be cold and clammy.*
- *Body may be limp, possibly very tense or they may be shaking*
- *Snoring or gurgling.*
- *Foaming or vomit at the mouth.*

If you witness an overdose, it is essential to contact emergency services as soon as possible at 613-575-2000. A naloxone kit alone may not be enough to reverse the effects of opioids. Medical attention may be required in certain overdose situations. Naloxone kits are available at the Wholistic Health & Wellness Program's Addictions Services office.

For more information on overdose prevention services, addiction services, or if you are interested in obtaining naloxone kits, please contact WHW Addictions Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3115.