

DRUG SUPPLY ADVISORY

Date issued November 10, 2021
In effect until: December 10, 2021

OKANAGAN

Description of drugs:

The drug supply in the Okanagan has changed recently. Very high fentanyl amounts combined with benzodiazepines (benzos) are causing overdoses. High fentanyl amounts and benzos are mostly being found in drugs sold as 'down' but we have also seen these results and heard reports of opioid and benzo effects in stimulants (methamphetamine, cocaine, crack cocaine) A variety of colours, textures have been identified. Photos of some of the samples can be found on www.drugchecking.ca/results.

Risk:

Very high risk of overdose, long periods of unconsciousness/sleepiness, black outs/memory loss.

Overdose response:

Naloxone does not work on benzos, BUT naloxone will work on the opioid overdose symptoms. After giving breaths and naloxone, the person may begin breathing normally, but may not wake up. More doses of naloxone should only be given if the person is not breathing normally (less than 10 breaths a minute). If the person is breathing normally but remains unconscious, place in recovery position and stay with them until emergency services arrive.

Reduce the risk

- Check your drugs before you use.
 - Supervised Consumption service: Kelowna
 - [UBCO Harm Reduction Program](#): Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon
 - Vernon Overdose Prevention Site: 250-503-3737
 - [ASK Wellness Penticton](#)
- Mixing substances increases risk of overdose; this includes alcohol and prescription drugs.
- Use with another person nearby or have someone check on you.
- Consider using the [Lifeguard app](#) which can connect you with 911 emergency responders if you overdose. Download at the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).
- When using your substance start with a small amount (half your usual dose or less), and then go slow.
- Use at an Overdose Prevention or Supervised Consumption Site, if one is near you.
- Know how to respond to an overdose - **call 911**, give rescue breaths and naloxone.