

Drug Warning: B-17

Issued: March 8, 2022

Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) is issuing a warning based on information received advising of the presence of a substance known as “B-17” in a neighbouring region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. This substance is described as pink in colour with similar appearances and side effects as purple Fentanyl. It is suspected to be involved in multiple opioid-related incidents in other jurisdictions whereby the administration of **3-4 doses of Narcan** were required. THU is issuing a warning in the hopes of preventing drug poisonings in our communities.

Drug poisoning (overdose) occurs when a person uses more of a substance, or combination of substances, than their body can handle. As a consequence, the brain is unable to control basic life functions. The person might pass out, stop breathing or experience a seizure. Drug poisonings can be fatal.

Prevent drug poisonings/save lives:

- Don't use drugs alone.
- Have a plan – Ask someone to check on you or call the National Overdose Response Service 1-888-688-6677
- If you use with a friend, do not use at the exact same time
- Carry naloxone, keep it visible and close to you
- Avoid mixing drugs
- Test your drug by using a small amount first
- If an overdose is witnessed: Call 911. Give naloxone. Stay with the person until help arrives. Under Canada's Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act, anyone who seeks medical help for themselves or for someone else who has overdosed, WILL NOT be charged for possessing or using drugs for personal use.

Signs of opioid poisoning include:

- Skin is cold and clammy
- Fingernails or lips are blue or purple
- Body is very limp
- Can't wake the person up
- Deep snoring or gurgling sounds
- Breathing is very slow, erratic or has stopped
- Pupils are very small

For free naloxone kits, contact Timiskaming Health Unit.

Please distribute this information widely to help share the message.

For more information contact Walter Humeniuk, Research Planning and Policy Analyst, Timiskaming Health Unit at 705.647.4305 ext.2271