



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Drug Checking: Fentanyl Test Strips

What is Drug Checking?



Drug checking is a harm reduction tool that can help community members to better understand what is in their drugs.

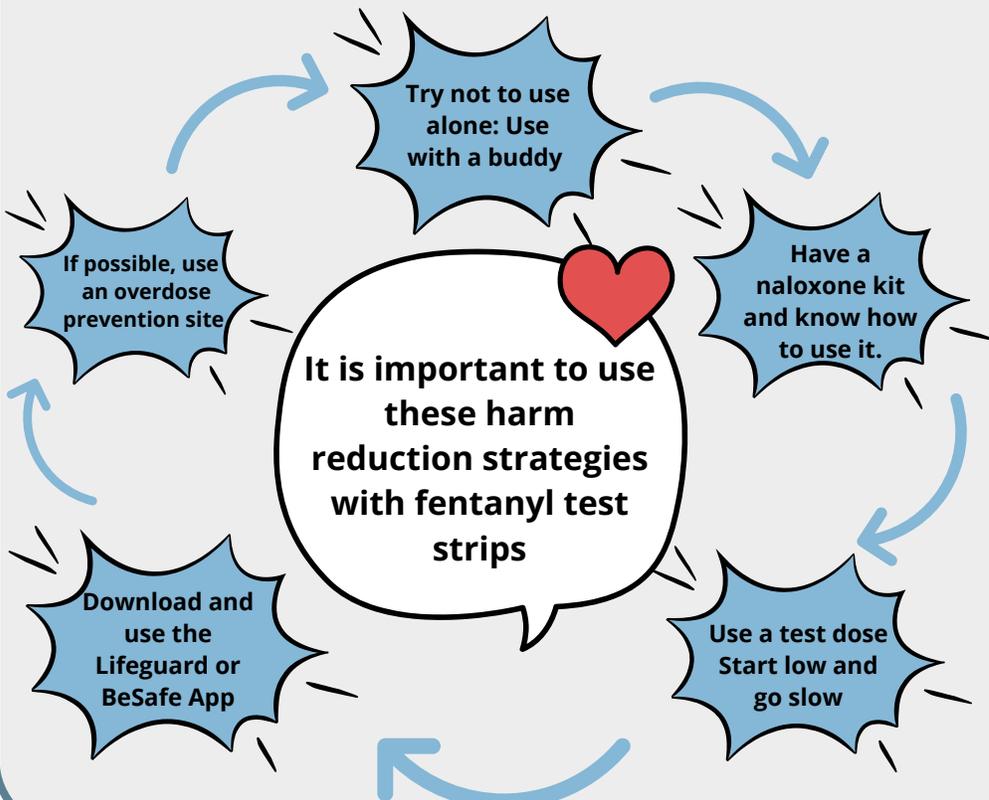


Information on what is in a drug can help to reduce the risk of toxic drug poisoning.

Fentanyl test strips can help detect fentanyl and carfentanyl in a drug sample. However it won't tell you which one it is.

Fentanyl test strips can be ordered directly through FNHA's Harm Reduction Hub. Contact harmreduction@fnha.ca for more information.

Harm Reduction Strategies



Important

- ! Fentanyl test strips are NOT 100% accurate. A negative test does not mean a substance is safe.
- ! Fentanyl test strips only tell you if there is fentanyl in the portion of the drug tested. They do not tell you how much is there or how strong it is.

Considerations

- ? Do you have support from Chief and Council and your Health Director to implement drug checking?
- ? Who will be in charge of this work and what is their role?
- ? Does the community have the staff capacity to take on this work?
- ? Are you receiving other drug checking supports or have you reached out to other supports?

To order fentanyl test strips for your community or to request education contact harmreduction@fnha.ca



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How to Use Fentanyl Test Strips



1 Check your drugs before use when possible

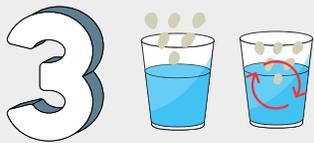
Fentanyl test strips can be used to test any drug, equipment or baggie.

Check your drugs every time you use. Fentanyl may not be evenly distributed and test strip results may vary with each sample



2 Pour 30ml of room temperature tap water into a small cup

Tip: A 1 ounce shot glass = 30ml



3 Put a small sample of the substance you are checking into the water (about a few grains of sand) and mix

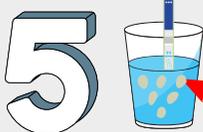
! It is important not to add too much of the sample as it can interfere with the results



4 Open the package at the notched end.



Hold the test strip by the blue end and be careful not to touch the white end



5 Place the test strip into the cup of water to cover the wavy lines

Be careful not to go past the solid blue line

Hold the strip in the water for 15 seconds or until the red line appears

Do not make dipping or stirring motions



1-2 min



Place the strip on top of the package and wait 1-2 minutes for results

Understanding the Results



POSITIVE FOR FENTANYL



1 red line = fentanyl is in the sample



NEGATIVE FOR FENTANYL



2 red lines = no fentanyl is in the sample



NOT CLEAR TEST RESULT



No red line next to solid blue area = retest



Please read carefully: Interpreting the results on a fentanyl test strip is opposite to other tests (pregnancy or COVID) where 2 lines = positive.

Testing a Stimulant



Large amounts of stimulant in a sample can lead to a false positive result

If you think your substance is a stimulant and you get a positive result follow these steps:



Add another 30 mls to the cup



Use a new test strip and follow the steps to test again



Remember a negative result does not mean the substance is safe. It's best to follow the harm reduction strategies on the reverse page to help increase safety

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