

May 5th, 2023

# OPIOID/DRUG SAFETY UPDATE

For the week of April 24, 2023 to April 30, 2023, there were eight suspect drug related deaths in York Region, reported by the Office of the Chief Coroner. Three deaths occurred in Markham over the weekend, reported by [York Regional Police](#). Additionally, "Pink Fentanyl" was noted in a Paramedic Services call in Markham.

If you have any additional information to share, including any concerns from the community with respect to the current or other emerging drug trends, connect with us at [substance@york.ca](mailto:substance@york.ca).

Please exercise extreme caution when obtaining drugs from the unregulated supply.

## Remember:

- **Carry naloxone**
  - Naloxone only works on opioids. However, naloxone should be administered to a person experiencing an overdose to reverse the effects of any opioids that may be present in the substance
  - Additional doses of naloxone may be needed to reverse an overdose as potent opioids are being found in the unregulated drug supply. Call 1-877-464-9675 X 76683 or email [substance@york.ca](mailto:substance@york.ca) to get naloxone kit(s)
- **Abuddy system is safer than using alone.** Use substances with someone else and take turns spotting for one another
  - If you're alone, consider reaching out to the **National Overdose Response Service** (1-888-688-6677). This service will support you over the phone and call 911 if needed
  - Visit your closest [Supervised Consumption Service](#)
  - If possible, follow the most up-to-date Public Health COVID-19 guidance at [york.ca/covid19](http://york.ca/covid19)
- Before using, **ask others about what they are experiencing** with the same drug or batch

If you are feeling depressed, lonely, anxious, scared, angry, or have other mental distress, call **310-COPE** at

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
[york.ca/opioids](http://york.ca/opioids)

1-855-310-2673 or (TTY)  
1-866-323-7785.

Report a bad reaction to drugs or overdose concerns to [York.ca/ReportBadDrugs](http://York.ca/ReportBadDrugs).