

August 4th, 2023

# OPIOID/DRUG SAFETY UPDATE

For the week of July 24th, 2023 to July 30th, 2023, there was a higher than expected number of calls to Paramedic Services for suspect opioid poisoning, as well as, possible drug overdoses. In addition, there were two suspect drug related deaths in York Region.

Contaminants such as Xylazine and Bromazolam have been found in York Region. Unintentional use of multiple downers may result in severe breathing problems and prolonged sedation. Please call 911 and use naloxone for any suspect drug poisoning and 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)
- **Never use alone**
  - Whenever possible, 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).