

Essential Tools for Opioid Overdose Prevention: Fentanyl Test Strips & Naloxone (Narcan™)

Helping People Who Use Drugs Stay Safe

Accidental overdose can happen to anyone taking drugs, even if occasionally or for the first time. For those using cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, or prescription pills that were not prescribed for them, overdose risk is greater because these drugs have been found to be contaminated (mixed with) fentanyl.

What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is an opioid prescribed for people experiencing severe pain due to an injury, surgery, cancer, and to manage pain at the end of life. It is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Most cases of fentanyl-related illness, overdose, and death in NH are linked to illegally made fentanyl that has been mixed with illegal drugs and counterfeit pills. Fentanyl acts extremely fast and it only takes a few salt sized grains to cause a fatal overdose. The NH Medical Examiner's Office has linked illegal fentanyl to three quarters (75%) of the opioid overdose deaths in NH.

How does overdose happen?

Opioid overdose happens when there are too many opioids in the brain and it is not able to tell the body to keep breathing. This is very dangerous and can cause death. If you think someone is

Fentanyl test strips (FTS) and naloxone (Narcan™) are lifesaving tools that protect people from unintentional fentanyl poisoning, overdose, and death.

having an overdose or has overdosed, call 911 immediately. If you have Narcan, administer it immediately.

What are fentanyl test strips?

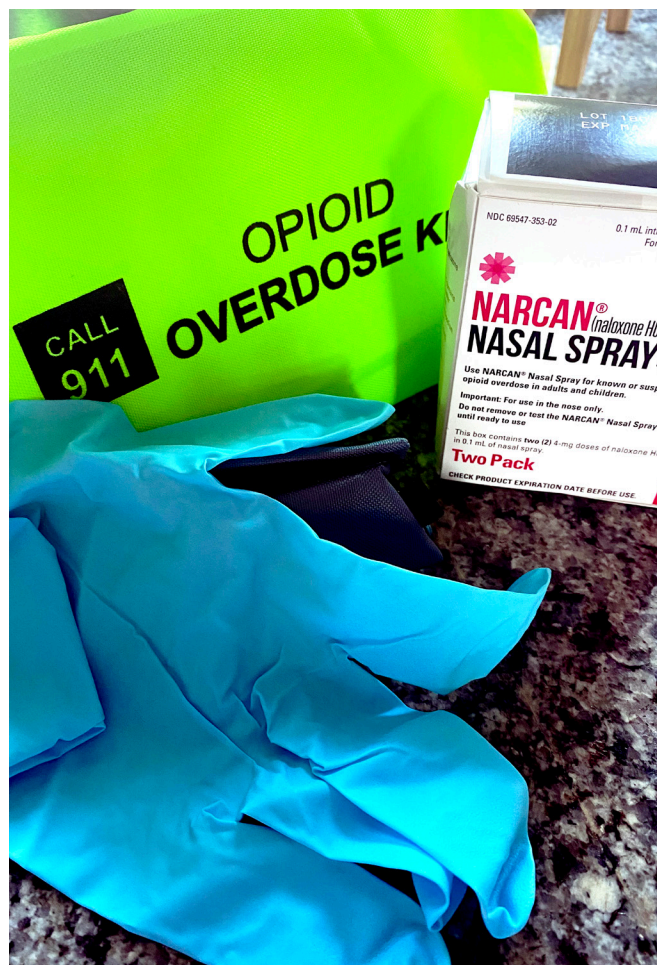
Fentanyl test strips are small strips of paper that are used to detect the presence of fentanyl. Testing substances with a FTS will tell you if the drug contains fentanyl. FTS are very accurate. FTS do not:

- Tell you how much fentanyl is in the substance
- Tell if you non-fentanyl drugs are in the substance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) allow federal funds to be used to purchase FTS.

What is naloxone (Narcan™)?

Naloxone comes in different forms (nasal spray and injection). It is used to quickly reverse an opioid overdose. Sometimes more than one dose is needed for the person to breathe again. You do not need to have a prescription to carry or use naloxone. It has no risk of abuse and has no effect on individuals who do not have opioids in their system.





Where can I get FREE
Fentanyl Test Strips
or naloxone?

Call 211 or visit
thedoorway.nh.gov
to get fentanyl test
strips and naloxone.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The Partnership @drugfreeNH

drugfreenh.org: A safe place to gather and learn about local strategies and activities to prevent substance misuse.

Never Use Alone

[Neverusealone.com](https://neverusealone.com) or call 1-800-484-3731: To talk with a lifesaving point of contact while using substances, call Never Use Alone. No judgment, no shaming and no preaching.

The Doorway

thedoorway.nh.gov or call 2-1-1 (or 1-866-444-4211): A statewide service that supports any NH resident, of any age, with a substance or alcohol concern or issue including free fentanyl test strips and naloxone.

NH Harm Reduction Coalition

harmreduction.org: Provides information, training and advocacy for evidence-based approaches to reduce the harms associated with substance use. Free syringe exchange, fentanyl test strips and naloxone are available.



Extension



THE
PARTNERSHIP
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