



HEALTH ALERT

At least 22 Drug Poisonings and 2 Fatalities Since Saturday, February 14th in Guelph. (February 20, 2026)



There has been at least 22 reported cases of substance-related poisonings and two fatalities in the past week. Light green and beige fentanyl are colours of concern.

- The current unregulated drug supply is unpredictably potent and contains other substances, such as medetomidine, a veterinary tranquilizer. Medetomidine is not an opioid and does not respond to naloxone.
- Assume that medetomidine may be present. If a drug poisoning is suspected, administer naloxone, as medetomidine is almost always found in combination with fentanyl. Please use extreme caution when using unregulated substances.
- Drug poisoning incidents are showing heavy sedation. After naloxone is given, check that the person is breathing regularly. If they are very sedated but still breathing, encourage them to breathe steadily before further assistance arrives.



REDUCE YOUR RISK

While the Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) at the Guelph Community Health Centre (GCHC) is now closed, strategies and supports are still available.



- **Carry naloxone:** Naloxone is available and free at WDG Public Health, local pharmacies, the downtown library, and Guelph CHC.
- **Avoid using substances alone:** Call the National Overdose Response Services (NORS) at 1-888-688-NORS (6677) if you're by yourself. Call before you use for non-judgemental phone **monitoring and overdose prevention support**.
- **Start low, go slow:** Use only a small amount of any new or unfamiliar substance.
- **Test your substances:** A drug testing machine is located through the HOME Program at various locations across Guelph. More information can be found here: <https://guelphchc.ca/home-program/>
- **Drug testing strips** are available from Sanguen and Wyndham House. [Get more information on drug testing](#)
- **Share information and resources:** [More information from the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy](#) and from [WDG Public Health](#)
- **The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act** protects those at the scene of a drug poisoning from simple possession charges when 911 is called.
- **Connect to substance use and mental health supports:** [Reach out to Here 24/7.](#)

Visit wdgpublichealth.ca/harmreduction