



IMPORTANT HEALTH ALERT UPDATE

September 5, 2025

Continued Risk of Drug Poisonings: 26 additional incidents since August 29.



Drug poisonings in Guelph Wellington continue to rise. Likely linked to sedatives in current supply.

- Since August 21, at least 46 drug poisonings (including 2 deaths) have been reported in Guelph and Wellington. This is more than double the same period last year.
- Likely linked to sedatives and veterinary tranquilizers (benzodiazepines, xylazine, medetomidine). These are not opioids, so naloxone may not work, but should still be given as opioids may also be present.
- The drug supply is unpredictable and highly potent, especially substances that look beige or light yellow. Recent poisonings have caused severe sedation, slowed breathing, and slowed heart rate.
- If someone is unresponsive: call 911, give naloxone, check breathing, and encourage steady breaths until help 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.



- **Test your substances:** Test strips are available from Sanguen, Wyndham House and WDG Public Health. A drug testing machine is also located at Guelph CHC at 176 Wyndham St. N.
- **Carry naloxone:** Naloxone is available and free at WDG Public Health, local pharmacies, the downtown library, and Guelph CHC. It is best to carry more than one kit, as multiple doses may be required.
- **Avoid using substances alone:** Call the National Overdose Response Services (NORS) at 1-888-688-NORS (6677) if you're by yourself.
- **Start low, go slow:** Use only a small amount of any new or unfamiliar substance.
- **Share harm reduction information and resources.**
- **Connect to substance use and mental health supports.**

Visit wdgpublichealth.ca/harmreduction