HOW TO TEST YOUR DRUGS USING FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

Why should I test my drugs for fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a powerful opioid that increases the chance for overdose. Fentanyl is commonly found in heroin. It is also present in cocaine, crack, methamphetamines, ketamine and pills from nonmedical sources. Fentanyl cannot be detected by sight, smell, taste or touch. Knowing if the drugs you plan to take contain fentanyl can lower your risk of overdose.

What are fentanyl test strips?

Test strips can tell you if your drugs contain fentanyl but not how much fentanyl there is or how strong it is.

How to test my drugs for fentanyl

Put 10mg of your drugs (crushed if they are in pill form) in a clean, dry container. In powder form 10 mg is enough to cover Abraham Lincoln’s hair on a penny. If you cannot test 10mg of your drugs, put at least a few grains in a clean, dry container.

Add 1 teaspoon of water to your drugs and mix them up.

Other options are: Dissolve all the drugs you plan to use in water then drink them or wait until the water evaporates to use them. This is a more accurate way to test since fentanyl is not always mixed evenly throughout. You can also place all your crushed drugs in a small plastic bag to mix them, then empty the bag and add water to the bag, which will contain the drug residue.

Place the test strip with the wavy side down in the water. Let the strip absorb the water for 15 seconds. Take the strip out of the water and place it on a flat surface for two minutes. Read the results.
How to read the results

• **Positive test:** Fentanyl or a similar synthetic opioid has been detected in your drugs. If you are not planning to use fentanyl or opioids, avoid using the drugs or see the “What else can I do to lower my risk of overdose?” section on the back of this material.

• **Negative test:** Fentanyl or a similar synthetic opioid has **not** been detected in your drugs. Remember, no test is 100% accurate and your drugs may still contain fentanyl or a similar synthetic opioid.

• **Invalid test:** Retest your drugs using a new strip.

What else can I do to lower my risk of overdose?

Use drugs with other people and take turns using them

Get naloxone (Narcan). Naloxone is a safe and easy-to-use medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Narcan is available in a free and confidential vending machine at 22 Elm Street (FORDO Building) in downtown Oneonta.

Before using drugs, ask someone you know to check on you regularly.

Go slow by taking small amounts. Avoid mixing drugs.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html