Novel Substances

Overview

▪ Novel substances are novel, or new, substances not previously identified by drug experts and include illicit drugs and counterfeit prescription medications.
▪ Novel substances include fentanyl analogs (e.g., acetylfentanyl, acrylfentanyl, carfentanyl/carfentanil, furanylfentanyl) and synthetic opioids (e.g., U-47700).
▪ Novel substances include more than opioids such as synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones, and novel benzodiazepines.
▪ The drugs available are changing rapidly.

What the Public Should Know

If you purchase drugs off the street or online:
▪ You do not know what you are getting.
▪ The color and appearance of the drug does not indicate anything about its contents and potency.
▪ Assume most or all counterfeit prescriptions and illicit drugs are unpredictable and adulterated. This means that they are mixed, cut, laced, or contain multiple substances.

Stay Safe

▪ Carry naloxone.
▪ Train those around you to use and carry naloxone.
▪ Do not use alone.
▪ Have a safety plan for every time you use.

Emergencies

▪ Call 911 if you suspect an overdose.
▪ Call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222, available 24/7, for questions about suspected poisonings, including drug overdoses, and drug interactions.

Minnesota Department of Health
STD/HIV/TB Section
651-201-5414
www.health.state.mn.us/syringe

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.