

Things to Remember

Fentanyl test strips are not 100% reliable, and some forms of fentanyl may not test positive depending on the brand of test strips. For this reason, it's important to always use with someone else and make sure you have naloxone if you need it.

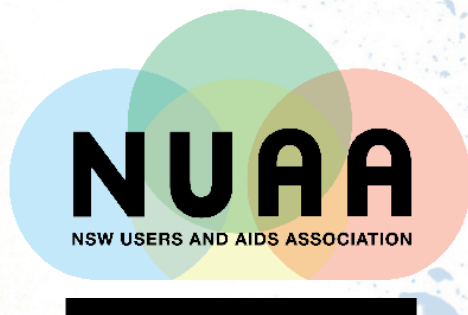
If someone is overdosing, get medical help ASAP by calling 000 and administer naloxone if you have any on hand.

Signs of fentanyl overdose include:

- Loss of consciousness
- Unresponsive to outside stimulus
- Breathing is very slow and shallow, erratic, or has stopped
- Choking sounds, or a snore-like gurgling noise
- Vomiting
- Face is very pale or clammy
- Pulse (heartbeat) is slow, erratic, or not there at all
- For lighter skinned people, the skin tone turns bluish purple, for darker skinned people, it turns grayish or ashen.

Your overdose risk is increased if you:

- Use alone
- Use more than normal
- Mix your dose with alcohol or other drugs (including some medications)
- Use after a break (hospital, detox, rehab, incarceration)
- Don't know your source and the strength e.g. new dealer, unknown drugs
- Have other health problems such as the flu, a major infection, or respiratory or liver disease



Contact Us For More Information

Level 5, 414 Elizabeth St
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
P.O. Box 350 STRAWBERRY HILLS
NSW 2010

PH: 8354 7300
TOLL FREE: 1800 644 413
EMAIL: nuaa@nuaa.org.au
WEBSITE: www.nuaa.org.au
TWITTER: @nuaansw
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/nuaansw



Know your **overdose** risk! Test your drugs for **Fentanyl**

- Fentanyl is an opioid that is up to 100 times stronger than heroin or morphine and has a much higher risk of overdose.
- Fentanyl and its related compounds have been found across Australia, in samples of heroin, cocaine, counterfeit medications and methamphetamine.
- We strongly suggest testing all drugs for fentanyl, especially if they're from a new batch or a new source, or if you haven't used for a while.
- Testing your dose and acting accordingly could save your own life, or the life of a loved one or friend.

The Process

1



Fentanyl test strips test for the drug's presence in a liquid, so you will need to add water to your drugs. Scrape a tiny amount of powder/crystal into a spoon or similar. If you inject drugs, you test your shot directly or squeeze the liquid out of your filter and test that.

2



Add a few drops of (preferably sterile) water into a container (if you inject, you can use the same one you prepared your shot in)

3



Swish the water around inside the container. If testing a shot that you're about to inject, use the end of a sterile syringe to mix (you could also squish the filter to release the residue)

4



Hold the blue end of the test strip and insert the other end into the liquid no higher than the blue line. Allow the liquid to travel up the strip and into the test area – this takes about 15 seconds.

5



Now set the strip down on a flat surface and wait about five minutes. Tip: you can lay the strip along the spoon or other container as long as it does not get bumped.

Where can I get Fentanyl Test Strips?

NUAA used the Rapid Response fentanyl test strips for this resource. There are different types of fentanyl, and we recommend this brand because it can identify most of them.

You can buy these test strips online, or contact NUAA and we will send you some (within NSW).

Reading The Results

1 red line = STOP.

Your drugs have tested POSITIVE for fentanyl and are not safe to use.

If the mix tests positive for fentanyl (1 red line), then you need to reassess if you are still going to use and if so, how much you are going to use. Remember that even if you use less you still might drop, so don't use alone and always have naloxone around.



2 red lines = CAUTION.

Your drugs have tested NEGATIVE for fentanyl. Be careful - you still may be at risk of overdose.

If the mix tests negative (2 red lines), you still need to be careful - not all forms of fentanyl are tested by every brand of test strip. We still suggest not using alone, especially if injecting drugs. If you must use alone, let someone know that you are about to have a shot and let them know where you are. Get them to ring you back in a few minutes to check up on you, and to call an ambulance to your location if you don't answer your phone.