

Novel Substances

What is a novel substance?

- 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.

What should the public know about novel substances?

- The drugs available change rapidly.
- Any drug purchased off the street, and possibly online, is likely adulterated, e.g. cut, mixed, laced, or contains multiple substances, and unpredictable.
- The color and appearance of a drug does not indicate anything about its contents or potency.
- Don't trust the source. For example, if a particular drug was purchased from a person before, it does not mean the product is consistent or will act the same in a body compared with a previous experience.

Information for those who use drugs:

- Carry life-saving naloxone.
- Train those around you to carry and use naloxone.
- Do not use substances alone.
- Develop a safety plan for every time you use.
- For assistance developing a safety plan or other harm reduction services, visit a syringe service program.

Resources available on novel substances and substance use:

- In the case of an overdose emergency, call **911** immediately.
- For questions about drug interactions, poisonings, or to report a drug overdose, call Minnesota Poison Center **at 1-800-222-1222** – available 24/7 and confidential.
- MN Syringe Service Exchange Calendar: justushealth.mn/minnesota-syringe-exchange-calendar
- Expanding Naloxone Access for Preventing Opioid Overdose: health.state.mn.us/naloxone
- Opioid Dashboard: health.state.mn.us/opioiddashboard