



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

www.nwhu.on.ca

November 8, 2019

Medical Alert – Reports of Overdose in Region

The Northwestern Health Unit advises that there has been a significant increase in reported overdoses in the region starting November 1, 2019. Syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits detected a total of 8 possible overdoses in the region between October 28 and November 3.

It has been reported anecdotally that the drug being used is in pill form and looks like Percocet. Based on recent findings of from Thunder Bay, it is believed that these pills likely contain a stronger opioid such as fentanyl or heroin.

We have also heard from the public that 911 has not been called in every overdose and that between 1-4 doses of naloxone were needed to revive victims.

Please inform your clients or patients about the risks associated with the use of opioids and how to reduce the likelihood of overdose, as noted below.

Opioid Overdose Prevention Key Messages

- Use one drug at a time, or use less of each drug if you are mixing.
- Use less drug when your tolerance is low (e.g. when you haven't used in a while).
- Try a small amount of drug first.
- Use with a friend (Do NOT share equipment).
- Leave your door unlocked or call someone before you use to let them know you are about to use.
- Get a Naloxone kit, AND have it ready.

Resources for Health Care Providers

Naloxone is available for people who are at risk for opioid overdose as well as their friends and family. They can contact the NWHU for more information on how to get a free Naloxone kit.

For surveillance information on Opioids in the region please visit:

<https://www.nwhu.on.ca/ourservices/DrugAndAlcoholUse/Pages/Opioids-in-Our-Communities.aspx>

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