



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

Public Health Alert

September 9, 2022- The Behavioral Health Services division of the Frederick County Health Department has received reports of fentanyl laced cocaine in the community resulting in multiple Frederick County residents overdosing in the last two weeks.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. In its prescription, form it is prescribed for pain, but fentanyl is also made illegally and distributed as a street drug. It is often found as a cutting agent in heroin, cocaine, counterfeit pills and other street drugs. Fentanyl is a central nervous system (CNS) depressant. People who use drugs may be unaware of its presence, which can result in overdose. Fentanyl has been involved in fatal overdoses in Frederick County.

People who use drugs should be made aware that they could encounter fentanyl in this form. Narcan should continue to be administered in the event an opioid overdose is suspected. Anyone who uses drugs is encouraged to practice overdose prevention strategies to reduce the risk of overdose. This includes becoming trained in overdose response, carrying Narcan, not using alone and using fentanyl test strips to detect the presence of fentanyl in your substance.

The Frederick County Health Department Behavioral Health Services offers free overdose response training, overdose prevention education, Narcan and fentanyl test strips. For more information or if you or a loved one is in need of support or treatment resources, please call 301-600-1777 or email harmreductionservices@frederickcountymd.gov.

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