

Drug Advisory



Issued for the Northwest Region

For Immediate Release

Date: December 11, 2025

Northern Health is issuing a Drug Advisory for the Northwest region of BC. Several “Down” samples submitted for drug checking have tested positive for **Medetomidine**.

Medetomidine is a non-opioid sedative which can cause an increase in complex overdose events and fatal overdose. Drugs containing Medetomidine can cause deep and prolonged sedation with **very low or no pulse**.

Overdose symptoms may require multiple doses of naloxone or may not respond to naloxone.

Increased risk of overdose through smoking, injection, or snorting.

Be cautious when using substances and follow the safety tips below:

- Get training to prevent, recognize, and respond to an overdose; carry naloxone.
- Don't use alone. Make a plan and use with a trusted person who can call for help if needed.
- If you plan to use alone, use the Lifeguard app available free on the app store or on Toward the Heart website (<https://towardtheheart.com>) or call NORS (National Overdose Response Service) **1-888-688-6677** (NORS).
- Know your tolerance. If you are sick or have had a time of no use or reduced use, use much less.
- Don't mix drugs or mix drugs with alcohol.
- Test a small amount first and go slow.
- Use in an OPS if possible (see locations linked below).
- Access fentanyl drug checking where available (OPS sites).
- Call 911 or your local emergency number right away if someone overdoses.

Local overdose prevention sites (OPS)

For information on your local OPS and other harm reduction service hours, see [here](#).



Alert in effect until:

December 25, 2025