DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Fentanyl Test Strips to Prevent Drug Overdose

Portions of this fact sheet are adapted from the California Department of Public Health's 'Fentanyl Testing to Prevent Overdose (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Fact_Sheet_Fentanyl_Testing_Approved_ADA.pdf#search=fentanyl%20test%20strips)' fact sheet.

What are fentanyl test strips?

Fentanyl test strips (FTS) are a form of drug testing technology which can detect the presence of fentanyl in drug samples prior to use. FTS are a reliable, common-sense means of providing people at risk of fentanyl exposure with more information that can decrease risk of overdose. As of July 2021, FTS are no longer within the legal definition of "drug paraphernalia" in Minnesota and are thus legal to possess, carry, and distribute.

How to use fentanyl test strips

In order to use fentanyl test strips:

1. Dissolve a small amount of drug supply in water, and then dip the test strip into the liquid for 15 seconds. Because the test strips are highly sensitive, a minimal amount of drug residue is sufficient to obtain a result.
2. Set the test strip on a flat surface until results appear, typically within 5 minutes.
3. One line indicates fentanyl is present in the sample; two lines indicate a negative result.

Scan the QR code below to watch a video on how to use fentanyl test strips

Accessing fentanyl test strips in Minnesota

To learn more about FTS and where you can access them for free in Minnesota, please contact the MDH Drug Overdose Prevention Unit by email at health.drugodprev@state.mn.us.

More drug overdose prevention strategies

For people who use drugs, FTS should be considered one 'tool' in the 'toolbox' of effective drug overdose prevention strategies. Remember to also:

- Connect with your local Syringe Services Program
- Carry naloxone
- Teach those around you to use & carry naloxone
- Do not use alone
- Have a safety plan for every time you use

Minnesota Department of Health
Drug Overdose Prevention Unit
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https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/opioids/index.html