

# Novel Substances

## Overview

- 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.
- The drugs available are changing rapidly.

## What the Public Should Know

If you purchase drugs off the street or online:

- You do not know what you are getting.
- The color and appearance of the drug does not indicate anything about its contents and potency.
- Assume most or all counterfeit prescriptions and illicit drugs are unpredictable and adulterated. This means that they are mixed, cut, laced, or contain multiple substances.

## Stay Safe

- Carry naloxone.
- Train those around you to use and carry naloxone.
- Do not use alone.
- Have a safety plan for every time you use.

## Emergencies

- Call 911 if you suspect an overdose.
- Call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222, available 24/7, for questions about suspected poisonings, including drug overdoses, and drug interactions.

Minnesota Department of Health  
STD/HIV/TB Section  
651-201-5414  
[www.health.state.mn.us/syringe](http://www.health.state.mn.us/syringe)

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.