



# DRUG CHECKING TO PREVENT OVERDOSE

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Hepatitis Education Project



ACCORDING TO THE KING COUNTY OVERDOSE DEATH  
DASHBOARD, THERE HAVE BEEN 486 OVERDOSE  
DEATHS IN KING COUNTY AS OF 8/11/2022

**FENTANYL!!**



**Monument police officer taken to hospital following possible narcotics exposure**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Deputy recovering after fentanyl exposure during Monterey Park traffic stop**

*Police officers say they're overdosing from fentanyl exposure. What's really going on?*

'You need to breathe': K9 officer shares what it's like being exposed to fentanyl

With the relatively recent surge in fentanyl-related overdoses, a new occupational safety concern has emerged among emergency responders: the fear of overdosing from touching fentanyl. In 2017 alone, over 150 media reports describing first responder exposures to opioids surfaced. Reports of overdose due to fentanyl contact among first responders have been repeatedly refuted by medical experts. Yet, mixed messages from the US government agencies and their prominence in media outlets have catalyzed the spread of misinformation about the risks of accidental fentanyl contact.<sup>1</sup>


<sup>1</sup><https://harmreductionjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12954-020-00402-2>



# PUBLIC HEALTH INSIDER

OFFICIAL INSIGHTS FROM PUBLIC HEALTH – SEATTLE & KING COUNTY STAFF

*Dr. Scott Phillips, Medical Toxicologist and Medical  
Director of the [Washington Poison Center](#)*



How could one get indirectly exposed to fentanyl from another person? Could you absorb it through the skin? Or through the air?

**THE RISKS ARE VERY LOW.** WHEN SOMEONE SMOKES FENTANYL, MOST OF THE DRUG HAS BEEN FILTERED OUT BY THE USER BEFORE THERE IS SECONDHAND SMOKE. IT DOESN'T JUST SORT OF FLOAT AROUND. STUDIES HAVE LOOKED AT FENTANYL CONCENTRATIONS IN THE BLOODSTREAM AFTER SOMEONE HAS HAD SECONDHAND FENTANYL EXPOSURE FROM SMOKE. THE LEVELS ARE EXTREMELY LOW OR NOT DETECTABLE. SO, THERE'S NO REAL RISK FOR THE EVERYDAY PERSON BEING EXPOSED TO SECONDHAND OPIOID SMOKE.

AND FENTANYL DOESN'T ABSORB THROUGH THE SKIN VERY WELL, SO THAT'S NOT A SIGNIFICANT RISK. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER (NOT ALCOHOL OR SANITIZER) IF YOU GET IT ON YOUR SKIN. FENTANYL AND OTHER OPIOID DRUGS ARE WHAT WE CALL VERY FAT-SOLUBLE. THEY LIKE TO GET INSIDE CELLS, IN TISSUES LIKE THE BRAIN. IF A PERSON TAKES FENTANYL, IT WILL QUICKLY BE TAKEN UP BY THE BRAIN, THE LIVER, AND OTHER FATTY TISSUES AND NOT LINGER IN THE AIR.





[Accidental Occupational Exposure to a Large Volume of Liquid Fentanyl on a Compromised Skin Barrier with No Resultant Effect | Prehospital and Disaster Medicine | Cambridge Core](#)

“no clinical effects of opioid exposure observed”



CURIOUS WHAT IS IN YOUR DOPE?

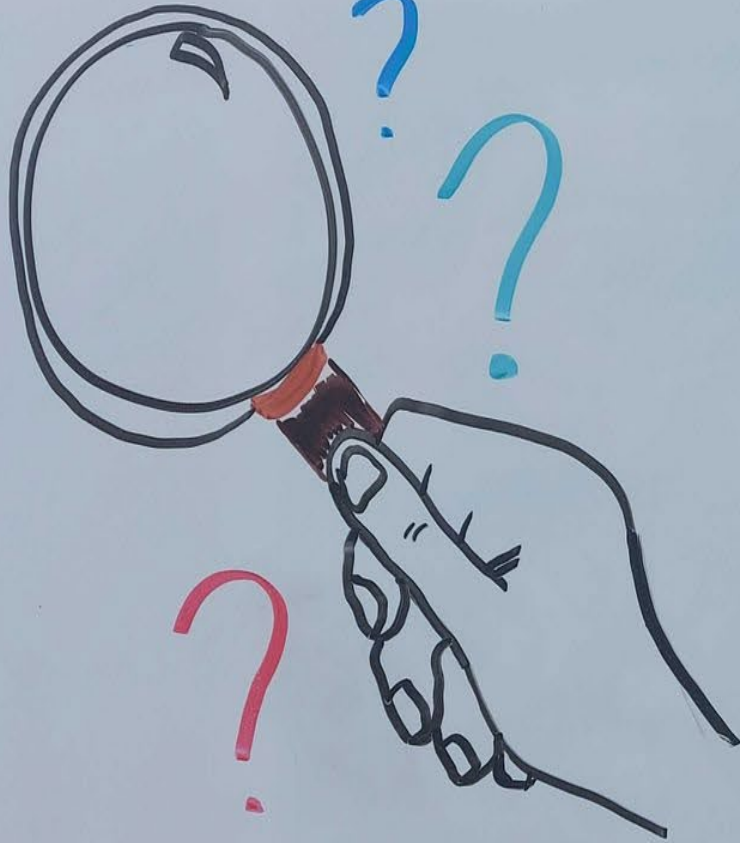
Come get it tested!

DRUG CHECKING

MON-FRI

1pm - 5pm

Vancouver Island Drug Checking  
Project



# A very brief history of drug checking





**DANCESAFE**







# Bruker Alpha II FTIR Spectrometer

- These machines are very expensive
- Have some limitations
- Require extensive training



**1 RED LINE = POSITIVE FOR FENTANYL**



**2 RED LINES = NEGATIVE FOR FENTANYL**



HOLD THIS END

Capillary action pulls the liquid up the strip into the test area.

DO NOT INSERT ABOVE THIS LINE

# Fentanyl Test Strips

- Less expensive
- Very ease to use
- Results in minutes



WA state law defines drug paraphernalia as “testing equipment used, intended for use, or designed for use in identifying or in analyzing the strength, effectiveness, or purity of a controlled substance,” and possession or use is classified as a misdemeanor.

buuuut

[SB 5509](#) was approved by the Senate on Feb. 8. The bill, sponsored by Sens. Jim Honeyford and Mark Mullet, would exempt fentanyl testing equipment from the definition of drug paraphernalia.



# Puget Sound Drug Checking Project

**Hepatitis Education Project**



**People's Harm Reduction Alliance**



# International Drug Checking Day March 31st



# HEEP PROJECT

HEPATITIS EDUCATION PROJECT

## Overdose Awareness Day Resource Fair

August 31, 2022 | 12:30 – 5:30PM  
1621 S Jackson Street Parking Lot



Urban League of  
Metropolitan Seattle



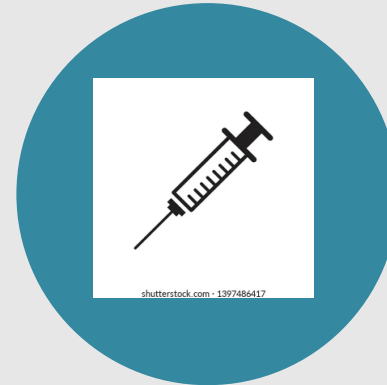
#END  
OVERDOSE

Public Health  
Seattle & King County





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