

## **March 1, 2017 Alert: Drugs Containing Illicit Fentanyl**

**Fentanyl and drugs containing illicit fentanyl have been found within Leeds and Grenville.** Illicit fentanyl is an opioid that is 100% pure and may be 10,000 times stronger than morphine. Illicit fentanyl alone, or mixed in with other street drugs such as cocaine, crystal meth, heroin and marijuana, or being sold as fake prescription drugs (e.g., Percocet or OxyContin), has a higher risk of causing a fatal overdose because;

- A small amount can be fatal – as little as equivalent to 1 grain of salt;
- There are varying levels of toxicity depending which illicit fentanyl is taken and how much is present; and
- People may not be aware that they are consuming it as it can be disguised as other drugs.

### **Signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose:**

- Won't wake up easily or at all
- Breathing is very slow, erratic or not at all
- Fingernails and or lips turn blue
- Body is limp
- Deep snoring or gurgling
- Pin point pupils
- Vomiting

In an overdose situation get help immediately: **Call 911.** Give Narcan (naloxone). **It is essential that all overdoses get medical attention!**

Narcan Nasal Spray kits are available at the Leeds Grenville Lanark District Health Unit. Naloxone injectable kits are available at Home Street Pharmacy in Brockville, Shoppers Drug Mart on King Street in Brockville, and Pharmasave on King Street in Gananoque. Those eligible for a kit include current and past opioid users as well as family and friends.

### **Advice for people using opiates:**

- Always use with someone else
- If you have to use alone, tell someone where you are. Ask them to check on you.
- Use very slowly, in tiny doses
- Get a Narcan (Naloxone) kit as this medication can reverse an overdose.

**Call the Health Action Line at 1-800-660-5853 for more information on Narcan Nasal Spray kits and training. For a list of additional pharmacies where you can get a free kit, call 1-800-565-8603.**

For important public health updates, connect with LGLHealthUnit on Facebook or Twitter.