

DRUG ALERT

July 24, 2026

For the week ending July 19, 2026, there was an increased number of calls to York Region Paramedic Services for possible drug poisonings (notably in the Cities of Richmond Hill and Vaughan) and suspected opioid poisonings. Details on the substances are not available, however, increased calls related to heroin and stimulants are noted. Anecdotal reports have also mentioned [medetomidine](#), which continues to circulate in the unregulated drug supply.

Please exercise extreme caution when obtaining drugs from the unregulated supply.

Remember:

CARRY NALOXONE

- Naloxone only works on opioids. Administer naloxone to a person that is showing signs of an opioid poisoning/overdose:
 - Person can't be woken up
 - Breathing is slow or has stopped
 - Snoring or gurgling sounds
 - Blue or purple fingernails and lips
 - Pupils are tiny or eyes are rolled back
 - Body is limp
- Additional doses may be needed as potent opioids are being found in the unregulated supply
- To find where you can get naloxone, visit: ontario.ca/naloxone, or call 1-877-464-9675 Ext. 76683 or email substance@york.ca

NEVER USE ALONE

- Use substances in a safe space with people you trust. You can be unconscious for a long time
- Take turns spotting for one another
- Consider checking your drugs using test strips or a [drug checking service](#)
- If you're alone:
 - Consider calling or texting [National Overdose Response Service \(NORS\)](#) 1-888-688-6677 –a Canada-wide service to support you over the phone and call 911 if needed
 - Have someone check on you

Before using, ask others about what they are experiencing with the same drug or batch

If you are feeling depressed, lonely, anxious, scared, angry, or have other mental distress:

Call/Text 310-COPE: 1-855-310-COPE (2673) **TTY:** 1-866-323-7785 or **Live Chat:** yssn.ca/310-cope

Krasman Warm Line & Peer Crisis Support Services: 1-888-777-0979

Report a bad reaction or poisoning/overdose concern anonymously to York Region Public Health at york.ca/ReportDrugPoisoning

PUBLIC HEALTH
york.ca/opioids

The logo for York Region, featuring a stylized white bird or wing shape above the text "York Region" in a white serif font, all set against a dark blue background.

5 STEPS TO RESPOND TO AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

STEP 1		SHOUT & SHAKE their name their shoulders
STEP 2		CALL 9-1-1 If unresponsive.
STEP 3		GIVE NALOXONE: 1 spray into nostril or inject 1 vial or ampoule into arm or leg.
STEP 4		PERFORM RESCUE BREATHING AND/OR CHEST COMPRESSIONS.
STEP 5		IS IT WORKING? If no improvement after 2-3 minutes, repeat steps 3 & 4. Stay with them.

RECOVERY POSITION

If the person begins breathing on their own, or if you have to leave them alone, put them in the recovery position.

head should be tilted back slightly to open airway



hand supports head

knee stops body from rolling onto stomach

SIGNS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE

- Person can't be woken up
- Breathing is slow or has stopped
- Snoring or gurgling sounds
- Fingernails and lips turn blue or purple
- Pupils are tiny or eyes are rolled back
- Body is limp