
Media Release**Feb 27, 2026****CK Public Health Warns of Increased Drug Poisonings in Chatham-Kent**

CK Public Health is issuing an alert about an increase in drug poisonings (overdoses) and unexpected reactions to substances in Chatham-Kent based on elevated opioid-related EMS calls over the last several days.

There are reports about the presence of strong tranquilizers in the local drug supply resulting in heavy sedation.

This serves as an important reminder that the unregulated drug supply is unpredictable and always changing. Substances may not be what individuals expect, increasing the risk of harm or death.

In case of overdose:

- Call 911
- Give naloxone if an opioid overdose is suspected (it may take more than one dose)
- Do not leave the person unattended
- Stay with and assist the person until paramedics arrive

If you use substances:

- Try to avoid using alone, fix with a friend
- If using with others, take turns spotting for each other
- Have a safety plan, ask someone to check on you, leave door unlocked
- Call the National Overdose Response Service (NORS) Safer Consumption Hotline at 1-888-688-6677
- Start low and go slow, try a test dose first
- Check your drugs with test strips
- Be aware of your tolerance
- Try to avoid mixing drugs
- Know the quality of your drugs
- Ask others about what they are experiencing with the current drug supply

Share this warning to help raise awareness and reduce the risk of drug poisonings. To learn more about where you can get a free naloxone kit visit www.ckphu.com/harm-reduction. To view the most recent Opioid Surveillance Report visit www.ckphu.com/opioids

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