A Guide to the Use of Fentanyl Test Strips

Fentanyl and various fentanyl analogs (drugs that are physically similar to fentanyl) are highly potent. Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It only takes a very small amount to cause an overdose and possibly death. With increased presence of fentanyl in the drug supply, individuals may wish to test their drugs before use.

This guide explains the use of the BTN X fentanyl test strips (FTS). Please note there are several limitations to the use of these strips for the purpose of checking drugs.

- According to the manufacturer, these strips contain products of animal origin. Certified knowledge of the origin and/or sanitary state of the animals does not completely guarantee the absence of transmissible pathogenic agents. It is therefore recommended that these products be treated as potentially infectious and handled by observing usual safety precautions (e.g., do not ingest or inhale).
- FTS are not approved by the Food and Drug administration for this use.
- A negative test result does not mean your drugs are 100% safe. All street drugs come with risks. FTS cannot tell you how much fentanyl or synthetic opiates are present.
- When fentanyl or a fentanyl analog are mixed with heroin, cocaine or other drugs, it is never mixed evenly. It is important to test the drug every time you plan on using.
- If you are unsure of the result or unable to check the drugs, assume fentanyl is present and do not use alone.

Reading Results and Using FTS

One red line = Fentanyl
Two red lines = No fentanyl
No lines or one red line at the bottom = The test did not work

Instructions on using fentanyl test strips with different types of drugs are included below. Different types of drugs are tested differently. Make sure to read the instructions in their entirety.

Instructions for Testing Residue for IV Drug Users

If you inject heroin or other drugs, you should test your drug every time you inject.

1. After preparing your shot, set the needle aside and wait to inject.
2. Add about 1 mL (1/4 a teaspoon) of clean water into the spoon or a sterile cap.
3. Swish the water around inside the spoon or sterile cap.
4. Hold the blue end of the test strip and insert the other end into the liquid (no higher than the blue line) for about 15 seconds.
5. Set the strip down on a flat surface and wait one to two minutes.
6. Read the results.
7. Discard the tested solution. Do not inject it.
Instructions for Testing Cocaine and Other Non-Injection Drug Residue (Best Method)

1. Place the drugs you intend to use into a small glass or ceramic cup. Crush tablets or crystals you intend to use into a powder.
2. Add water, adding 2 teaspoons of water per 100 mg of powder (~10mg). If you are testing meth or MDMA, add 1 teaspoon of water for each 10mg of crystal or powder to avoid a false negative.
3. Stir thoroughly with a clean spoon.
4. Set the spoon down.
5. Use another spoon to fill the residue spoon with clean water.
6. Hold the blue end of the test strip and insert the other end into the residue liquid in the spoon (no higher than the blue line) for 15 seconds.
7. Set the test strip down on a flat surface and wait one to two minutes.
8. Read the results.
9. Discard the tested solution. Do not ingest it.

Instructions for Testing the Residue Inside the Baggie

If you are testing cocaine that is pressed into a rock, grind it or crush it up and put in a baggie before following the steps below.

1. Shake your baggie, then empty the powder or crystals inside your baggie into a second baggie.
2. Fill the first baggie with ½ teaspoon of clean water and swish it around to dissolve the residue. If testing meth or MDMA, you may need more water depending on how much residue is stuck to the inside of the baggie.
3. Pour the liquid residue into a clean glass and add half a cup of water to dilute the residue.
4. Hold the blue end of the test strip and insert the other end into the residue liquid (no higher than the blue line) for 15 seconds
5. Set the strip down on a flat surface and wait one to two minutes.
6. Read the results.
7. Discard the tested solution. Do not ingest it.

Risk Reduction

If fentanyl is present, there are some steps you can take to reduce the risk of overdose:

- Do not use alone.
- Make sure you have naloxone available, someone you are with knows how to administer it and they call 911 in case of an overdose.
- Change how you use-use smaller doses, snort or drink your drugs instead of injecting.

Please help us by taking a private survey about fentanyl test strips. Visit this webpage www.surveymonkey.com/r/5FN59MZ or scan this QR code: