



OIT Alert!

JULY 31, 2020

UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE REPORTED IN FREDERICK, CECIL & HARFORD COUNTIES

On Thursday, July 23, our office received reports of an unknown substance in Frederick, Cecil, and Harford Counties that can cause very serious wounds at the site of injection.

In Frederick County, the substance is being sold under the name "No Shorts" and distributed in capsule form. Reports indicate that individuals purchasing the substance believe that they are purchasing heroin. After injecting the substance, individuals report injuries that begin as a small discoloration and progress into an open wound. An article citing a warning from Frederick County Health Department can be found here: <https://wtop.com/frederick-county/2020/07/frederick-county-warns-of-possibly-fake-heroin-causing-gangrene/>.

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program is currently awaiting results from a forensic lab analysis from Frederick County. HIDTA's initial concern is related to a substance called "krokodil" (desomorphine), but lab results are required before any final determination is made. Read more about krokodil here: <https://www.drugs.com/illicit/krokodil.html>.

The Cecil County Health Department believes that a similar substance, branded as "Don't Make Me Mad," is present in Cecil County, where two confirmed cases have been reported. Both of the cases involved individuals engaged in wound-care services. CCHD will continue to monitor the situation and share information with the community as it becomes available.

Harford County has issued the following public health alert:

"The Harford County Health Department Harm Reduction Program has received reports of soft tissue injuries, including abscesses and development of gangrene, associated with injection drugs recently in circulation. Similar reports have also been made in Frederick and Cecil Counties, MD.

Development of abscesses and cellulitis after injecting heroin cut with xylazine (commonly used as a horse tranquilizer) has been seen. Bags containing this substance are stamped "Ohh yeah."

Reports also include development of gangrene after injecting contents of a gel capsule containing what was believed to be heroin, sold under the name "No Shorts." The powder turns pink/red when water is added. The injury starts as a small discoloration (purplish) at the injection site and progresses outward into an open wound, sometimes almost black in color.

If you have an injection-related wound that shares any of the similarities above it is recommended you seek immediate medical attention.

Call the Harm Reduction Program at (410) 612-1779 for information on overdose prevention (including free Narcan®) and wound care. Contact Behavioral Health at (410) 877-2340 for information on substance use treatment and peer recovery services."

Please report any further information related to the above to Help.OOCC@Maryland.gov.

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