

Supplementary notes from the *'Fentanyl; what schools need to know'* discussion

This is about preparing for a rapid health response if there is adulteration of other drugs with fentanyl or fentanyl-type substances. It isn't currently an urgent/crisis situation.

If there is adulteration of other drugs (e.g. MDMA or methamphetamine) with fentanyl and fentanyl-type substances, it is possible deaths may occur in a short space of time.

Re: School Students:

They are not likely to have an opioid overdose at school, even if there was fentanyl adulteration in other drug (e.g. MDMA) supply. However, they may speak to you about being worried about their friends or family members. They will also see news articles and may know people who have been impacted – helping them to develop the critical thinking skills to make sense of what they see, hear, and experience is key.

Fentanyl test strips can be ordered for free through the NZ Drug Foundation or The Level. Instructions on how to use them are here: <https://thelevel.org.nz/news-and-stories/how-to-test-your-drugs-for-fentanyl/>.

Don't encourage students to bring substances at school to test.

Re: School Clinics and Clinicians:

School clinics may be called upon in an emergency situation where a member of the public needs medical attention.

Nurses in these schools may choose to order naloxone to hold as part of their emergency kit supplies (in accordance with medication management procedures), but there is no requirement to do so.

Naloxone is available via MPSO in ampoules with roughly a 2 year shelf life. Nasal sprays (nyxoid) can be purchased over the counter, but are not subsidised.

If nurses/doctors order naloxone for school supplies, all liability is held by those ordering/administering the medication.