How to Use Drugs Safer

Use New Needles
To avoid an infection, always use new needles and materials (e.g. filters and cookers) every time you use drugs. Go to a pharmacy or call a syringe exchange for new supplies.

Get Naloxone
Naloxone is the only medicine that can stop an opioid overdose. Have it with you every time you use drugs. You can get naloxone at a pharmacy or syringe exchange.

Don’t Use Alone
You can’t give yourself naloxone if you overdose. So, make sure someone is with you who can call 911 and give you naloxone in an emergency.

Go to a Doctor or Clinic
Injecting drugs can cause infections that can make you sick. Visit the doctor or health clinic at least once a year to get tested for hepatitis C and HIV, or to get care for wounds that don’t get better.

We all have a role to play in ending the overdose crisis. What’s yours? Find out at PreventOverdoseRI.org
How to Stay Safer with Fentanyl

**Use Fentanyl Test Strips**
Fentanyl test strips are easy to use tests to see if your drugs have been mixed or cut with fentanyl. When you get your result, you can make the decision about what to do next.

**Have Naloxone**
Overdose happens fast. Make sure you and your friends carry naloxone.

**Use With Others**
Make sure someone is around. They can give you naloxone if you overdose.

**Call 911**
If you think that someone is overdosing, call 911 first and administer naloxone until breathing is restored. The Good Samaritan Law provides certain legal protection, whether you have drugs on you or not.

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