

# SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID OVERDOSE

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE & RESPOND

Synthetic cannabinoids are NOT the same as cannabis. Synthetic cannabinoids are made in a lab - they do not come from the cannabis plant. They are usually more harmful and unpredictable.

SUSPECT AN OVERDOSE?  CALL 911

### RECOGNIZE

### RESPOND

#### Unconscious



1. Follow **SAVE ME**  
Stay & monitor - do not put anything in or near the mouth

#### Vomiting



1. Supervise until vomiting is over
2. Ensure a **clear airway**
3. Ask the person to lay on their side and **watch them**
4. If the person loses consciousness or becomes unresponsive - **call 911**

#### Seizures



1. **Stay and watch them** - do not try to restrain or place anything in (or near) the mouth
2. Remove any nearby objects or hazards that may cause harm
3. Once the seizure has stopped:
  - a. If breathing on their own place in recovery position. If unresponsive, check airway & breathing - follow **SAVE ME**

#### Paranoia, Anxiety, Confusion



1. Be calm
2. Move away from activity and noise
3. Encourage to not take any more substances
4. Stay with the individual until paramedics arrive

#### Fast Heartbeat



1. **Stay** with them until the paramedics arrive
2. No pulse? Begin CPR - 30 chest compressions, 2 breaths, repeat

#### Aggression & Agitation



1. Maintain physical distance
2. Practice **safe communication** - use calm voice  
Stay where you can see them.

Created By: 4th year UBCO Nursing Students - reviewed by the Interior Health (IH) Peer Advisory Committee and the Population Health, Harm Reduction Team - January 2021

## SAVE ME

*Follow these steps if the person is unconscious*

\*Naloxone will only work if opioids were also present. If you are unsure, it will not cause harm to administer naloxone.



Stimulate

Unresponsive?  
Call 911



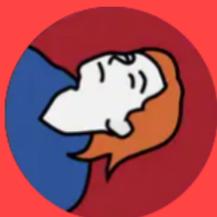
Airway

Check & Open



Ventilate

1 breath every  
5 seconds



Evaluate

Breathing?



Medication

1 dose of  
naloxone



Evaluate & Support

Wait 3min.  
Another dose?