




DRUG ALERT

Vernon

Multiple samples of drugs sold as DOWN contain medetomidine

Looks Like: Beige and pink
Powder, pebbles, chunks

Sold as: Down, Dope, Fentanyl

Contains: Medetomidine (1%) 
Fentanyl (1%)
Fluorofentanyl (3%)
Xylazine (15%)

Risk: Very high risk of overdose and fatal overdose.
Amnesia, sleepiness, nodding out for a long time.
Overdose symptoms may not respond to naloxone.
Smoking is not safer than injecting.

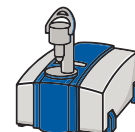


Medetomidine is a non-opioid tranquilizer with effects similar to xylazine. It is up to 200 times stronger than xylazine.


While fentanyl will respond to naloxone, medetomidine will not. This can lead to complicated and long lasting overdose symptoms. Medetomidine suppresses respiration and has potentially dangerous cardiovascular effects.



If you have a drug that looks like this, call or text 778 212-8611 to get it tested before using. Drug checking is available in Vernon from 9 to 5 everyday at the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy.



Consider these additional tips if you are going to use drugs

- Find more drug checking locations at www.drugchecking.ca
- Be aware of risks if mixing with other drugs, including alcohol
- Use with others around or at an Overdose Prevention Site 
- Start with a small amount and wait before taking more
- Space out your doses
- Carry naloxone and know how to use it
- Call 211 or visit bc211.ca to find services near you
- Get the LifeGuard App - lifeguardddh.com

Alert in effect until May 31st 2025

Harm Reduction | Population Health

**Local Substance
Use Services**
310-MHSU
Vernon OPS
250-503-3737