

Notice to population

For immediate release

Infos regarding the presence of a new substance, protonitazene, in counterfeit tablets circulating in the region

Gaspé, July 18th, 2024 – Public health direction for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands has been informed of the presence of a new substance, **protonitazene**, in counterfeit tablets circulating in the region.

The facts about protonitazene:

- Synthetic opioid 2 to 4 times more powerful than fentanyl
- Users consuming psychoactive substances (cocaine, amphetamines, GHB, etc.) may unexpectedly be exposed to lethal amounts of this substance
- To date, in the region, no deaths have been linked to this substance

Recommandations :

- Stay watchful and notify any unusual symptoms related to poisoning to Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands by using : (418) 368-2443, ext : 5435.
- If you use drugs :
 - Avoid using alone.
 - When using with other people, don't all use at the same time.
 - Reduce the amount of a drug you intend to use when testing its effects.
 - Have naloxone close at hand and know how to use it
 - Call 911 if someone overdoses

*** The *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* provides immunity from simple possession charges for anyone who calls 911 about an overdose

Resources that can provide free naloxone kits :

- Centre Émilie Gamelin (Chandler) : (418) 689-6100
- Centre Accalmie (Pointe-à-la-Croix) : (418) 788-2406
- GASP des Monts (Ste-Anne-des-Monts) : 1-877-619-7223
- Mi-Chemin (Gaspé et Carleton-sur-mer) : (418) 368-6676
- Aire ouverte (Gaspé) : (581) 886-5725
- Aire ouverte (Grande-Rivière) : (418) 616-7370
- Maison à Damas (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) : (418) 986-6631
- Carrefour Unité (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) : (418) 986-2233
- Accueil Blanche-Goulet (Gaspé) : (418) 368-4700
- Centre de ressourcement, de réinsertion et d'intervention (Gaspé) : (418) 368-1655

Pharmacies distributing free of charge naloxone kits :

<https://www.inspq.qc.ca/sites/default/files/cartes/naloxone/index.html>

For more information :

Lou Landry

Adjoint au PDG et responsable des communications

CISSS de la Gaspésie