Drug Checking by Mail

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Drug checking refers to using various tools and technologies to determine the general makeup of a substance. Since the drug supply is unpredictable, any sample can contain unexpected or unwanted substances. The more information you have about what's in your substance, the more informed of a decision you can make about your use and how to minimize risk. If you or someone you know has experienced an overdose or felt different sensations than normal after use, you may be a good candidate to submit a sample.

## **PRIVATE & ACCESSIBLE**



**NMHealth** 

Samples are submitted anonymously and at no cost to participants!

## WHAT CAN BE TESTED

- YES Pills
- YES Powders
- YES Residue
- YES Baggies
- YES Cottons
- NO Plant matter

# **HOW TESTING WORKS**

- 1. Once you bring your sample to your local harm reduction provider and they have determined the sample is acceptable, the specialist will package the sample in the appropriate manner for shipping.
- 2. Only a small very small amount is needed for the sample.
- 3. It is safe to mail the sample as it is placed in a liquid that neutralizes the contents while still allowing the lab to test it.
- 4. Once the lab has received the sample, they will put it through a mass spectrometer that allows them to see the various chemicals. They will then post the results on their website the ID number your provider gave to you.
- 5. This test will tell you what substances and adulterants (such as acetaminophen or caffeine) are in your sample.
- Use new & sterile supplies
- Know the signs of overdose
- ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN • Don't use alone
- Have naloxone available
- Use slowly/small amounts
- Avoid mixing substances

#### FIND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: NMHARMREDUCTION.ORG

## WHAT TESTING CANNOT DETERMINE

**ASK QUESTIONS** 

You are always welcome

to ask any questions you

may have during the

collection process. The

harm reduction specialists

are there to help!

- 1. Will not identify cuts (fillers such as mannitol or starch).
- 2. Give exact amounts, percentages, or potency of a substance.
- 3. May not explain unexpected side effects you might have experienced.

## **GETTING YOUR TEST RESULTS**

Results can take up to two weeks to get back.

If you have already sent a sample you can review results by scanning the QR Code or ask your harm reduction provider to print them for you!