



Public Health
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Greene County



Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

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Greene County Public Health's Mail-Order Naloxone Program Includes Fentanyl Test Strips

XENIA, OH—Greene County Public Health (GCPH) continues to include fentanyl test strips in its mail-order naloxone program, an essential tool in combating the opioid crisis. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to harm reduction and overdose prevention.

Fentanyl test strips are a simple and effective method for individuals to check for the presence of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid that has significantly contributed to the rise in overdose deaths in recent years. Access to these strips is vital in our efforts to prevent overdoses. In 2023, GCPH distributed over 4,000 fentanyl test strips through our SafeTrade Harm Reduction program and community events. Making them available through our mail-order program removes any barriers to access and reduces any fear of stigma.

In 2022, fentanyl was involved in approximately 83% of overdose deaths in Greene County. According to the Ohio Attorney General's website, there were 3,579 fentanyl related deaths in Ohio in 2023, a decrease of approximately 6% from 2022, which is indicative of the success of harm reduction programs.

We live in an era where the illicit drug supply in this country is unregulated, contaminated, and often deadly. Fentanyl is contaminating much of the illicit drug supply including cocaine, methamphetamine, and fake pressed pills. Often, people are unaware that fentanyl is present because the appearance, smell, or taste of the drug it is mixed with does not change, increasing the risk of overdose. One way to keep people safe is to give them knowledge of what it is that they're using. Fentanyl test strips provide a way for someone to know if fentanyl is present in their substances. Surveys of people who use drugs have shown that 85% of individuals who used fentanyl test strips modified their drug-use behavior to some extent.

Anyone in Ohio can now receive fentanyl test strips in the mail with their naloxone. To order visit <https://bit.ly/3f2yjJJ>.

For more information on these life-saving tools and related educational resources, please visit our website at www.gcph.info/wellness-services/chronic-disease-injury-prevention/harm-reduction or email us at projectdawn@gcph.info. Our dedicated team is here to provide support and guidance on the effective use of these resources.

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