

# FENTANYL

## Understanding Your Safety As a Bystander Helping in A Crisis

Fentanyl is in our communities in Oregon. You might see someone using it or experiencing the effects of it in your workplace or around your neighborhood. It's understandable to have questions about how fentanyl can, and cannot, affect you. Outreach workers and first responders help people who are using drugs everyday and have very low risk of health problems from being around fentanyl including from secondhand fentanyl smoke. It is important to know the truth about fentanyl so you can help if you see someone having an overdose.



### **YOU CANNOT OVERDOSE ON FENTANYL BY TOUCHING IT**

Fentanyl gets in your body through mucous membranes (such as by breathing it into lungs) or through the bloodstream (by using a needle). You cannot get high or overdose by touching it briefly or by touching something with fentanyl on it. Prescription fentanyl skin patches are designed to be absorbed through the skin, but they give medicine over many hours to days. Most fentanyl that is illegally made is a powder that won't absorb through the skin. If you think you have fentanyl or another drug on your hands, do not touch your eyes, mouth, or nose. Wash your hands with soap and water. Cleaning surfaces as you normally would with a spray or soap and water will remove any fentanyl.



### **SECONDHAND FENTANYL SMOKE CAN'T GET YOU HIGH**

Smelling smoke is not the same as inhaling a drug. When a person uses fentanyl, they heat the drug and inhale the vapor through a straw or pipe. The smell from the burning drug and the smoke they breathe out won't get you high or cause an overdose.



### **USE NALOXONE**

Naloxone works on fentanyl overdose. If you think someone is experiencing an overdose, call 911 right away and give a naloxone dose. It may take a few doses of naloxone if someone overdoses on fentanyl. Give another dose every 2-3 minutes until help arrives. If you can, give rescue breaths or CPR. If they vomit or you need to leave them, roll them onto their side in the recovery position. These steps can save someone's life.



### **THERE IS NOT A RISK OF FENTANYL OVERDOSE FROM SMOKING CANNABIS**

Fentanyl has been found in cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, & illicit benzodiazepines (often in the form of pills). Commercial vaping products do not get hot enough to vape fentanyl, so someone vaping tobacco or marijuana can't create fentanyl smoke.



### **FENTANYL HAS APPROVED MEDICAL USES TO TREAT PAIN**

Fentanyl is used in medical care for treating severe pain. It can come in the form of lozenges, patches, and nasal sprays. Fentanyl found in recreational drugs is not the same as the kind a doctor gives. Recreational fentanyl and drugs with fentanyl mixed in are not safe because you don't know their strength or what they're made of.