



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO. 2

Alcona County

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Harrisville, MI 48740

Tel: 989-724-6757

Iosco County

420 W. Lake Street

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Tel: 989-362-6183

Ogemaw County

630 Progress St.

West Branch, MI 48661

Tel: 989-345-5020

Oscoda County

393 S. Mt. Tom Road

Mio, MI 48647

Tel: 989-826-3970

INFORMATION RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 5.6.2024

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Regional Medical Examiner Alerts the Public to Increased Drug Overdose Deaths

Dr. William Morrone, Medical Examiner for five area counties, (Arenac, Bay, Iosco, Midland, and Tuscola Counties), reports six overdose deaths within the region in 11 days. Dr. Morrone states that this trend is very unusual and wants to ensure the region is alerted to grave danger. According to Morrone, "there is a really bad batch of fentanyl, and we need to warn the public and first responders".

Immediate Action Steps:

- 1) Seek treatment.
- 2) Keep Narcan (also known as naloxone) readily available.
- 3) Administer Narcan when a suspected overdose is occurring and call 911.
- 4) Do not use drugs alone.
- 5) Use fentanyl test strips.
- 6) Avoid mixing drugs.

The risk of a fatal overdose remains ongoing for people who use both stimulant drugs, such as cocaine or methamphetamines, as well as depressant drugs, such as fentanyl or other opioids.

- **Opioid Treatment Resources:** Mi Hope Portal <https://www.mihopeportal.com/>
- **Narcan Use Instructions:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnjgrRNMfKM>
- **Narcan Distribution Locations:**
 - DHD2 West Branch Office: 630 Progress St. West Branch, MI 48661
 - DHD2 Tawas Office: 420 W Lake St. Tawas, MI, 48763
 - DHD2 Harrisville Office: 311 N Lake St. Harrisville, MI, 48740
 - DHD2 Mio Office: 393 S Mt. Tom Rd. Mio, MI, 48647
 - Please reach out to your local pharmacy or health care provider if these locations do not fit your needs.
- **Fentanyl Test Strips:** CDC Fentanyl Test Strips: A Harm Reduction Strategy <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/fentanyl-test-strips.html>

District Health Department No. 2 is your partner in health promotion, disease prevention, and protection of the environment. We may be contacted by phone at 1-800-504-2650, or by e-mail at health@dhd2.org. For after-hours emergencies, call 911. We



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invite community members to follow us on Facebook and visit our webpage:
<https://www.dhd2.org/> for ongoing public health information.

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