Nov 19, 2026

Drug Alert

Grey Bruce Public Health has been notified of numerous individuals experiencing decreased levels of alertness and prolonged sedation.

Encourage clients to use medetomidine drug test strips available at Public Health and the SOS drug checking machine.

Medetomidine is a veterinary tranquilizer that can cause deep sleepiness, a slow heart rate, low blood pressure, very low or no pulse, and hallucinations. Medetomidine withdrawal can cause severe and harmful high blood pressure.

In any drug overdose, call 911 and administer naloxone every 2-3 minutes until the person starts breathing. Stay until help arrives.

Follow these harm reduction practices:

- Don't use alone -- have a trusted, sober friend present. Call or text NORS at 1-888-688-6677 if using alone or download and use the Brave App.
- Get overdose prevention training and carry a naloxone kit.
- Avoid mixing substances. Mixing substances can increase the risk of harm and drug poisonings.
- Go slow -- start with a low dose and increase slowly, especially if trying something new or restarting use.
- Call 911 in an overdose. The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act provides legal protection for people who witness or experience an overdose and call for help.
- Use only new supplies and avoid sharing supplies. This reduces the risk of getting or passing on an infectious disease. Supplies are available at GBPH and community partners.
- Get your drugs tested. Call or text SOS at 519-379-8743.

Suicide Crisis Hotline: 9-8-8
Connex Ontario: 1-866-531-2600
Supportive Outreach Services (SOS): 519-379-8743
Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinic: 519-376-3999
National Overdose Response Service (NORS): 1-888-688-6677

Grey Bruce Public Health

Please remove by November 26, 2026