



Public Health Alert

April 12, 2020 – The Talbot County Health Department has been made aware of the presence of **Xylazine** in fatal overdoses across the State of Maryland. Xylazine is a drug used in veterinary medicine and is not approved by the FDA for human consumption, however it is being used as an adulterant or “cutting agent” in combination with other substances including heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine. Xylazine may cause deep tissue damage when injected or inhaled as a standalone drug or in concomitant use with other substances, and poisoning may result in bradycardia, respiratory and CNS depression, and hypotension which significantly increase the potential for overdose and/or death. **Narcan** does not work to reverse the effects of Xylazine, but **should still be administered** to reverse the effects of opioids such as heroin, fentanyl, and prescription pain relievers such as oxycodone/Percocet, hydrocodone/Vicodin, codeine, and/or morphine.

Xylazine has been reported as being dark brown or white/grey in color and may change to a shade of pink when water is added. Xylazine is also associated with blackouts and severe changes in cardiac output, blood pressure and/or temperature drops, as well as more severe withdrawal symptoms. Street names may include Collateral Damage, Tranq or Tranq Dope, Wipeout, Steph Curry, 550, Rampage, or Black Mask. Xylazine may also increase COVID-19 risks due to cardiovascular and respiratory reactions. Immediate medical attention should be sought if exposure has occurred for respiratory care and blood pressure observation by calling 911 or going to the nearest emergency room.

Individuals who are seeking resources for problems related to the use of alcohol and/or other drugs may contact the Talbot County Addictions Program at 410-819-5602. The intranasal form of Narcan is also being provided with opioid overdose response training; Contact: 410-819-5639.

Poison Center Hotline: 1-800-222-1222

Behavioral Health Crisis Services: 1-888-407-8018

References: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Xylazine03042019_648483_7.pdf
https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_chem_info/Xylazine.pdf
<https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6243/2020107-Public-Health-Alert--Xylazine>
<https://www.nvopioidresponse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/u-public-alert-xylazine-003.pdf>
<https://www.mdpoison.com/media/SOP/mdpoisoncom/ToxTidbits/2019/Jan%202019%20ToxTidbits.pdf>



Public Health
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