



## Renfrew County and District Health Unit

### Media Release

**For immediate release: May 19, 2017**

#### **Health Unit to host more information sessions on fentanyl and overdose**

Illicit fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, has been confirmed in areas throughout Ontario in a variety of fake prescription pills and other street drugs, such as cocaine, crystal meth, heroin, and marijuana. Illicit fentanyl is known to be deadly in small amounts, making the risk of overdosing extremely high. Ingesting even a small amount can be fatal.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit recently hosted three sessions on fentanyl and overdose in partnership with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Services, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Renfrew County Youth Network and the pharmacist at Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre. Almost 200 community members attended these events.

“Our goal was to be proactive with our communities and provide as much information and education as possible about fentanyl and the risk of overdose. The feedback we received from the community was positive but we know we need to do more,” stated Kayla Schutt, Public Health Nurse at the Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

The Health Unit is planning to host three more information sessions;

- **June 13, 2017 at Mackenzie Community School, Deep River, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (ENGLISH SESSION)**
- **June 14, 2017 at École Secondaire Catholique Jeanne-Lajoie, Pembroke, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (FRENCH SESSION)**
- **June 15, 2017 at Arnprior District High School, Arnprior, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (ENGLISH SESSION)**

A panel of health professionals and community partners will present the following topics; opioids and illicit fentanyl, an overview of the Naloxone Program and Naloxone kits, an emergency services perspective, treatment services and how to talk to your kids about drugs. There will also be a guest speaker and an open question period for attendees to address the panellists. Community partner displays will be available for viewing starting at 6:30 p.m. and will continue until 9:00 p.m.

“Fentanyl overdose and opioid use has become a national problem and no community large or small is exempt,” states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health at the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. “Regrettably, this is not a problem that is going to go away quickly. The Health Unit is committed to working with our partners for the long term, and these sessions are just the first in a series of interventions”.

For more information, you can also visit [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com) or call the Renfrew County and District Health Unit Health Info Line at 1-800-267-1097 Ext. 666 to speak with a nurse.

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#### **For more information:**

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