

## **ADVISORY**

### **FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, provisional data show that there were a record 3,026 overdose deaths in New York City, an increase of 12% (330 deaths) over 2021 levels; and

**WHEREAS**, fentanyl has been present in nearly 80 percent of overdose deaths in New York City for five consecutive years; and

**WHEREAS**, new adulterants, including xylazine, continue to be identified in New York City's drug supply, presenting additional health risks to people who use drugs, both locally and nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of New York has extensive tools to prevent overdose deaths and treat opioid use disorder, including interventions and services such as medication assisted therapy, counseling, peer services, naloxone distribution, fentanyl/xylazine test strips, support to people who use drugs, public health guidance that will empower people to manage their own levels of risk; and the nation's first two, privately financed, Overdose Prevention Centers run by a community syringe service program, which have intervened on more than 1,000 overdoses; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of New York supports syringe service providers and harm reduction hubs in all five boroughs, supports access to treatment for people who use drugs, provides free trainings in naloxone administration, makes naloxone freely available, facilitates distribution of harm reduction tools such as fentanyl/xylazine test strips, runs public information campaigns encouraging risk management to prevent overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of New York launched Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for New York City with overdose prevention as main pillar of the strategy, and with an overarching goal of reducing overdose deaths in NYC by 15% by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, all New Yorkers may know someone at risk for an overdose and should be ready to assist people who are experiencing an overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, fentanyl and other opioids are deadly.

### **THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY PROVIDED NOTICE THAT:**

1. All New Yorkers should learn the signs of an overdose and, in the event they encounter such an emergency, call 911 immediately and administer naloxone if they have the medication on hand.

2. All New Yorkers should be equipped with and trained in naloxone administration.
3. All New Yorkers should engage in conversations with family and friends regarding substance use to combat stigma and misinformation.
4. People who use drugs should not do so alone or let loved ones use drugs alone.
5. Health care providers should screen patients for substance use widely and break down stigma and shame by providing patients a safe place to talk about substance use and receive information about supports as well as ways to help treat substance use disorders.
6. People who use drugs are strongly encouraged to engage with local services including syringe service programs, overdose prevention centers, treatment providers and other primary care services.
7. No one should bring illicit drugs into their home. If they are in your home they should be removed or kept out of reach of others, especially children.

Dated: September 25, 2023