

April 16, 2026

CALL FOR VIGILANCE

PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTION FOR THE GASPÉ PENINSULA AND MAGDALEN ISLANDS URGES DRUG USERS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR METHOD OF CONSUMPTION (INGESTION, INJECTION, INHALATION, OR OTHER) TO BE CAUTIOUS AND ENCOURAGES CLINICIANS AND INTERVENERS TO INCREASE OVERDOSE PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS.

CURRENT SITUATION :

A significant number of reports of non-fatal overdoses have been observed in the Montreal area in recent days, linked to suspected fentanyl use. The sharp rise in overdoses coincides with the detection of carfentanil in several samples suspected to be fentanyl in the form of “rocks” of various colors.

WHAT IS CARFENTANIL ?

Carfentanil is a highly potent synthetic opioid whose presence in fentanyl mixtures is unusual and drastically increases the risk of overdose. These situations are sometimes characterized by the rapid onset of opioid overdose symptoms and may require immediate intervention as well as more complex and prolonged treatment.

It is advisable to reduce the usual doses, as even a minimal amount of carfentanil could cause an overdose leading to death.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

In the event of a suspected overdose, call 911 immediately and administer naloxone. Regardless of the substance consumed, naloxone is indicated when a person :

- Has difficulty breathing,
- makes a snore-like gurgling noise or is not breathing at all;
- Reduce the dose of a drug to test its effects.
- Avoid using alone (or, notify someone and stay in contact while taking the substance, ex. National Overdose Response Service (NORS) 1-888-688-6677 or Accompagnement à distance en prévention des surdoses (ADPS): 1-800-265- 2626 option 2).
- Have naloxone close at hand in large enough quantities and know how to use it in case of an overdose. Don't hesitate to use it (not dangerous even if it isn't necessary).
- When using with other people, don't all use at the same time.
- Avoid using multiple substances at the same time
- Direct and accompany people to resources where they can obtain naloxone free of charge (available at most pharmacies, several community organizations, and from outreach workers).

HOW TO OBTAIN NALOXONE?

[Find a resource offering naloxone - Répertoire des ressources en santé et services sociaux](#)

[Rescuing a person from a possible opioid overdose | Gouvernement du Québec](#)

In Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, some resources can provide free naloxone kits:

- **Centre Émilie Gamelin (Chandler) : (418) 689-6100**
- **Centre Accalmie (Pointe-à-la-Croix) : (418) 788-2406**
- **GASP des Monts (Ste-Anne-des-Monts) : 1-877-619-7223**
- **Mi-Chemin (Gaspé et Carleton-sur-Mer) : (418) 368-6676**
- **Aire ouverte (Gaspé) : (581) 886-5725**
- **Aire ouverte (Grande-Rivière) : (418) 616-7370**
- **Centre de ressourcement, de réinsertion et d'intervention (Gaspé) : (418) 368-1655**
- **Maison à Damas (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) : (418) 986-6631**
- **Carrefour Unité (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) : (418) 986-2233**

If necessary, refer to addiction treatment services by contacting your CLSC.