HOTELS: FENTANYL SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes patrons who are staying at hotel may be either using or dealing illicit drugs within the hotel. One of the most common types of drugs that are being used by people today is called Fentanyl. Exposure to fentanyl can be life threatening due to the potency of the drug. In this lesson we will cover what Fentanyl is, what it looks likes, the ways you could be exposed to it, the effects of fentanyl, signs of an overdose, personal protective equipment, what to do if you suspect that you have been exposed to Fentanyl**,** and cleaning up areas where Fentanyl has been used.

WHAT FENTANYL IS

Fentanyl is a type of synthetic opioid, and the pharmaceutical version was originally developed to help with pain management treatment for cancer patients, however outside of medical settings it is being used as an illicit drug. This opioid is 50-100 times stronger than morphine and is one of the most abused illicit drugs on the streets.

Alongside the pure form of Fentanyl, this drug is laced or mixed into other illicit drugs such as heroin, cocaine and marijuana.

WHAT FENTANYL LOOKS LIKE

Fentanyl is sold in a variety of ways and can look like one or more of the following:

- Lollipops or lozenges
- Tablets
- Sprays
- Patches
- Injectables

Per the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), this drug also goes by many different street names such as:

- Apace
- China girls
- China town
- China white
- Dance fever
- Goodfellas
- Great bear
- He-man
- Poison and Tango and Cash

WAYS YOU COULD BE EXPOSED TO FENTANYL

There are many ways that a person can be exposed to Fentanyl, including:

- Absorbing it through the skin (i.e., skin contact)
- Inhalation
- Oral exposure or ingestion

Questions? Call 1-800-734-3574

- Needlesticks

THE EFFECTS OF FENTANYL

The effects that Fentanyl has on the body include:
- Relaxation
- Euphoria
- Pain relief
- Sedation
- Confusion
- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Urinary retention
- Pupillary constriction
- Respiratory depression
    - This is where breathing is slow and ineffective.
- Easily addictive
- Death

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE

Common signs associated with Fentanyl overdose include:
- Low blood pressure
- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- A limp body
- Changes in pupillary size
- Cold and clammy skin
- Blue colored lips and fingernails
- Slowed or stopped breathing
- Decreased heart rate
- Coma
- Death

Please note that it is very easy for a person to overdose on Fentanyl and even those who have not participated in active use of the drug could experience an overdose from just being exposed to the drug. If you suspect that a person has overdosed on Fentanyl, you should immediately call for emergency medical assistance.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

One way that you that can minimize your potential exposure to Fentanyl is to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE may include:
- Nitrile gloves
- Respiratory protection
- Safety glasses or goggles
- Protective clothing (such as coveralls and gowns)

You should inspect all provided PPE for wear or damage before you put it on. Report damaged or worn items to your supervisor. Do NOT use damaged PPE.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO FENTANYL

If you suspect that you have been exposed to fentanyl, you should do the following:

- Immediately notify your supervisor.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
    - Do NOT use hand sanitizers that contain alcohol as it can make your skin absorb the drug.
    - Do NOT eat, drink, smoke, or touch your eyes without washing your hands.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms associated with Fentanyl.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you feel like you are displaying symptoms associated with Fentanyl.

CLEANING UP AREAS WHERE FENTANYL HAS BEEN USED

Unless otherwise allowed by local, state, and federal regulations, areas contaminated by Fentanyl should only be cleaned up by a professional team. States may require professional teams due to the potential for the contamination to spread throughout the building or due to the potency of the drug.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, illicit Fentanyl is a commonly used drug that may be used by hotel patrons while they are in their hotel room. As such, there is a chance of you being exposed to Fentanyl. Fentanyl is a highly potent drug, and it is very easy to overdose on this drug even if you are not an active user. If you suspect that Fentanyl has been or is present in a room, immediately notify your supervisor.