

Terms of service

Though we do our very best to provide accurate information, by submitting a sample to be checked, the service user agrees to assume all risk related to the quality and accuracy of the results and information provided.

- This service is intended to offer people who use drugs free, anonymous, timely, and detailed information on the contents of their drugs, helping them to make more informed decisions
- While anyone can access this service, it is funded to reach those at highest risk of opioid overdose
- We reserve the right to deny access to this service
- This service cannot be used for punitive, legal, health product compliance, or regulatory purposes
- This service operates by way of an exemption from Canada's Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, which allows the handling and transfer of controlled substances
- Samples are collected at participating collection sites, which are community health agencies that offer supervised consumption and many other drug-related, health, and social services
- Service users may submit up to a maximum of 3 samples per visit
- Accepted samples are:
 - Drugs, including a small amount of powder, crystals, rocks, or liquid, a crushed bit of a pill, or blotter
 - Used equipment, including a used cooker or filter, or leftover liquid from a syringe
- A full microscop (10 mg) of a drug is required for analysis
- Samples are analyzed offsite at participating analysis sites using technologies validated for drug checking for opioid overdose prevention, including: gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS), liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS), or Fournier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) in combination with fentanyl test strips
- Samples may also be checked using other emerging technologies with a goal of making drug checking better and more accessible (this may include technologies developed by for-profit companies)
- Samples are destroyed after they are analyzed
- Each sample has a unique ID (e.g., TW100) – this ID is required to access results

- Results should be available within 1 to 2 days
- Results include the name of each substance found in a sample and some information about how much of each substance is present
- Results are communicated by collection site staff in person (preferably), by phone, or by email
- Results are shared with relevant harm reduction strategies
- Results from all samples checked are combined to perform timely and public unregulated drug market monitoring, available at www.drugchecking.community
- Data collected and generated by this program is used to advocate for services and safer alternatives for people who use drugs

The following samples will not be analyzed and will be disposed of if they arrive at an analysis site:

- Drugs larger than three microscoops (30 mg)
- Drugs submitted in a baggie instead of a vial
- Capsules or entire pills
- Organic drugs like cannabis, mushrooms, or anything THC-, CBD-, or nicotine-related
- Hormones, steroids, vitamins, performance enhancers, or substances deemed out of scope by the service

About this resource: These are the terms associated with the offsite drug checking model currently offered by Toronto’s Drug Checking Service. Service users agree to these terms by submitting a sample to be checked.

About Toronto’s Drug Checking Service: [Toronto's Drug Checking Service](http://www.drugchecking.community) is a free and anonymous community-based public health service that aims to reduce the harms associated with substance use and, specifically, to prevent overdose by offering people who use drugs timely and detailed information on the contents of their drugs. Beyond educating individual service users, results for all samples are combined and analyzed to perform unregulated drug market monitoring, then translated and [publicly disseminated every other week](#) to communicate unregulated drug market trends and drug education to those who cannot directly access the service, as well as to inform care for people who use drugs, advocacy, policy, and research.

Participating collection sites: Casey House | Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre (Parkdale and Queen West sites) | Regent Park Community Health Centre | South Riverdale Community Health Centre (KeepSix and Moss Park sites) | Street Health | The Neighbourhood Group (Kensington Market Overdose Prevention Site) | The Works at Toronto Public Health | Toronto Shelter and Support Services (Seaton House Overdose Prevention Site)

Participating analysis sites: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Clinical Laboratory and Diagnostic Services) | St. Michael’s Hospital (Department of Laboratory Medicine and Drug Checking Unit)

Toronto’s Drug Checking Service is coordinated by a small central team that operates from within the Drug Checking Unit at St. Michael’s Hospital. The central team is also responsible for conducting unregulated drug market monitoring and developing and disseminating relevant drug information.