

Drug users urged to be extra careful following a high number of likely heroin overdoses

There are early signs that the overdoses may be caused by heroin mixed with a potent and dangerous [synthetic opioid](#), but further work is needed to confirm any links between the cases.

To date, there have been at least 46 poisonings resulting in 16 deaths but investigations are still ongoing. The areas affected include South London, the South East, South West and East of England.

PHE is working closely with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and National Crime Agency (NCA) to investigate these incidents and prevent further deaths.

People who use drugs, in particular heroin, should be extra cautious about what they are using and how much they take.

Rosanna O' Connor, Director of Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Justice at PHE, said:

We are urging drug users to be extra careful following reports of a sharp rise in the number of overdoses potentially connected to heroin, tragically with some deaths. We are urgently investigating with the police and local partners.

We strongly advise anyone using drugs not to use alone and to test a small amount first.

People need to look out for each other and be alert to any signs of an opioid overdose, such as shallow breathing, loss of consciousness and blue lips or fingertips.

If someone does overdose it's vital to act fast, call for an ambulance immediately and if possible use the opioid antidote, naloxone, which can save lives.

We strongly advise all drug users to get support from local drug services, as being in treatment greatly reduces the risks of harm and overdose.

NCA Deputy Director Miles Bonfield said:

The NCA is leading and co-ordinating the law enforcement response to the drug overdose incidents, working closely with the NPCC, PHE

and others, to gather intelligence and assess the situation.

Drug dealers pose a serious threat to our communities, as they exploit vulnerable people for their own gain. As always, our primary objective is to protect lives and we are working hard with our partners to minimise harm.

I would urge people to take the time to read the official advice from PHE so you know the risks and signs to look out for and if you are offered drugs, report it to your local police.

NPCC Drugs Co-ordinator Lead Mark Lay said:

There have been a concerning number of drug overdoses reported in recent days in specific parts of the country, and sadly, some of these cases have resulted in deaths. At this time, there's nothing to suggest that there is a direct link between any of the areas affected.

Drug dealers target and exploit some of the most vulnerable people in society. Forces are working at pace with local partners to ensure that such communities are being informed of the risks, and the dangers of drug and substance abuse.

As always, I would urge anyone who is offered drugs to contact their local force with any information which might help the police to find those responsible and get dangerous drugs off the streets.

PHE has issued an alert to all local public health and drug services, making them aware of the problem and asking them to reach out to drug users outside of the drug treatment system.

Drug service staff have been asked to ensure that all drug users, and anyone who might be with them if an overdose occurs, understand how to spot the signs of an overdose and always carry naloxone and know how to use it. Drug users are being advised never to use alone and to test a small amount of any drug they intend to use first.

There is good evidence that naloxone prevents opioid overdose deaths. Drug service staff can provide naloxone to anyone without a prescription, and the availability of nasal naloxone now makes it easier for people to use naloxone. While drug death rates do vary across the country, it's vital that all local areas ensure wide availability of naloxone and training in its proper use.

In addition to access to naloxone, easy access to effective drug treatment, including opioid substitution treatment, is critical as there are fewer heroin overdose deaths reported among people attending [drug services](#).

[Delivery partner sought to inspire the next generation of space enthusiasts](#)

News story

The UK Space Agency are looking for a delivery partner to run an exciting new competition for primary school age children



As we work towards establishing commercial vertical and horizontal small satellite launches from UK spaceports from 2022, the UK Space Agency is undertaking a programme of educational activity to inspire young people, particularly those from under-represented groups, to engage with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Maths) subjects. We hope to inspire the next generation of British space scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs.

To this end, we are now inviting potential delivery partners to help create and manage a new competition aimed at primary-age children (aged 4-11 years). This competition will invite children to design a visual logo that conveys how small satellites could inform solutions to climate change and the winning design will be displayed on the first rockets to launch from UK soil.

This is not the only UK Government project aimed at widening engagement with the opportunities arising from Launch UK – a competition aimed at young people aged 16-plus, and inviting practical designs for a small ‘nano’ satellite, will open later this year.

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Lydaxx 100 mg/ml solution for injection for cattle, pigs and sheep – Product defect recall alert

News story

Product defect recall alert for: Lydaxx 100 mg/ml solution for injection for cattle, pigs and sheep (EU/2/20/253/003) by Vetoquinol UK Ltd.



We wish to make wholesalers and veterinary surgeons aware that Vetoquinol UK Ltd has initiated a Class I recall of Lydaxx 100 mg/ml solution for injection for cattle, pigs and sheep as a precautionary measure.

Vetoquinol have identified that there is a potential for the sterility/stability of the product to be compromised due to a crimping problem of the aluminium cap. This recall is for the 100 ml bottles of the following batch only:

Batch No.0C3829 Expiry Date 03/12/2022

Vetoquinol UK Ltd is contacting wholesale dealers and veterinary surgeons to examine inventory immediately and quarantine products subject to this recall.

For further information regarding the recall, please contact the Customer Services Department on +44 1280 814500 Option 1 or email: UK_office@vetoquinol.com.

Published 17 August 2021

Changes to the way IPO fees are paid

News story

We are changing the way fees are made to the IPO. We will be moving to use GOV.UK Pay for online payments and using shorter payment references.



A more seamless payment experience

From 23 August 2021, the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) joins over 200 other UK government organisations in taking fee payments using GOV.UK Pay.

All fees paid online to the IPO using a credit or debit card will be made using the GOV.UK Pay service. GOV.UK Pay is secure and fully Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliant. It is used and trusted across government to take payments for over 500 different services.

The new screens will provide all the same options as the Barclaycard service we have used for the last 4 years. The big difference regular online customers will notice is that they no longer move away from GOV.UK branded screens when making a payment.

Deposit account holders' payment options will not change.

A shorter payment reference

We are making an improvement to the process of [paying fees for paper forms](#). The online process for paying these fees remains the same, with one small change. Instead of receiving a 16 character reference after you make a fee payment, you will now receive a **10 character payment reference**. This is what you will enter onto the IPO form you are completing.

Customers have told us that the previous reference was very long and easily confused with a credit card number. Moving to a shorter reference removes that confusion and makes it easier to enter accurately on our forms.

Service disruption weekend of 21 to 22 August 2021

We plan to implement the above changes to our payment systems over the

weekend of 21 to 22 August 2021. Customers accessing fee-bearing online services may experience disruption over these two days and we apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

Strong Customer Authentication (SCA)

New banking industry rules come into force over the next few months to reduce online fraud. Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) may mean that you are asked by your bank to verify your identity using a 'second factor' when making online payments. Visit the [FCA website](#) for more information.

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[Young, outstanding Singaporean professionals presented with UK Chevening 2021/2022 scholarships](#)

Singapore, 17 August 2021

Two doctors who contributed to Singapore's Covid-19 response last year, an international dispute resolution lawyer, and a communications specialist at a counter-terrorism think-tank are the four Singaporean recipients of the UK's 2021/2022 Chevening Awards.

The British High Commission Singapore announces today (17 Aug) Dr Glorijoy Tan, 32, Dr Muhammad Taufeeq Wahab, 27, Mr Aloysius Chang, 34, and Mr Teo Kai Xiang, 25, as this year's Chevening scholars.

They will pursue Master's-level courses in the UK starting this autumn, supported by the global Chevening scholarship programme which helps future leaders develop academically and professionally.

Dr Glorijoy Tan

Dr Tan is an Associate Consultant Infectious Diseases physician at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) and Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), with interests in infection prevention and control and public health.

In addition to her clinical work in the hospital, she served as a medical consultant to the Ministry of Manpower's ACE (Assurance, Care and Engagement) Public Health and Surveillance Unit during the Covid-19 outbreak. She was also a member of the team behind the Covid-19 Symptom Checker online system, created to help individuals with flu-like symptoms decide on what their next steps should be.

While a successful applicant for the Chevening Awards for 2020/2021, Dr Tan chose to put her postgraduate plans on hold for a year, to continue her work at the NCID and TTSB in tackling infectious diseases.

She said:

It is a great honour to have been awarded the Chevening Scholarship. I am looking forward to spending a year in London, learning from eminent experts in my field, being part of the global Chevening community, and experiencing a new country, culture, and people.

The pandemic has dramatically changed the way we live and view infectious diseases. I am confident that the skills and qualifications that I will attain through the Masters program in Public Health will enhance my abilities to serve my country and its people upon my return, in conducting research, policymaking, and nurturing the next generation of Infectious Diseases physicians.

Dr Tan will be studying for a Master of Public Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of London.

Dr Muhammad Taufeeq Wahab

Dr Taufeeq is a Medical Officer with the National University Health System (NUHS) Preventive Medicine Residency Programme, with interests in mentoring, infectious diseases and improving global and regional public health and health equity.

Last year, he supported Singapore's inter-ministry task force dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak in the foreign worker dormitories, helping to develop protocols, distribute then-limited Covid-19 testing resources and build medical support teams.

Dr Taufeeq said:

Becoming a Chevening scholar is a dream come true, and I am extremely humbled by the opportunity. Being a Chevening scholar doesn't just offer me the chance to study in some of Britain's best universities, but also to network with like-minded Chevening scholars from across the globe!" said Dr Taufeeq.

With this precious opportunity, I am one step closer to my dream of contributing to global and regional public health. And I hope to inspire others to follow the same path so that we can achieve equitable healthcare for all.

Dr Taufeeq will be studying for a Master of Public Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of London.

Mr Aloysius Chang

Mr Chang is an Associate at King & Spalding (Singapore) LLP, who has been working in the field of international dispute resolution. He has written articles for the Singapore Law Review and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Review. He won Fountain Court Chambers' Christopher Bathurst Prize in 2016.

Mr Chang is pursuing a Master of Law (LLM) at the University of Cambridge.

He said:

I am absolutely ecstatic to have been chosen for Chevening and very much honoured to join the hallowed ranks of Chevening scholars.

I will be pursuing a Master of Law at the University of Cambridge, where I hope to acquire specialist knowledge in international law to better contribute to Singapore's growth in the field of international dispute resolution.

Mr Teo Kai Xiang

Mr Teo is the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism's (ICCT- The Hague) Communications Officer, leading the organisation's digital strategy and public engagement. His current research focuses on online harms such as radicalisation and misinformation, and he is the creator of the "POFMA'ed Dataset", an online dataset of every electronic communication subject to Singapore's 'fake news' law.

Mr Teo will be pursuing a Master of Philosophy in Sociology of Media and Culture at the University of Cambridge.

He said:

I am excited to start my postgraduate studies in sociology at the University of Cambridge, where my proposed research focuses on how information policy influences online civil society. Armed with this knowledge, I hope to work with regulators and tech companies to make Singapore's digital public sphere more inclusive and transparent.

I am beyond grateful to Chevening for this amazing opportunity to expand on my past research on information and security policy. As a queer Singaporean who has taken an unconventional path in education, this scholarship is absolutely opening doors for me that I would have struggled to reach otherwise.

Her Excellency Kara Owen presented the four scholars with their Chevening Awards certificates today, during a private presentation at Eden Hall, the

official residence of the British High Commissioner of Singapore.

Over 50,000 professionals from around the world have studied in the UK through the Chevening programme since 1983.

Notable Chevening alumni from Singapore include Leader of the Opposition Pritam Singh, Singapore mufti Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States Ashok Kumar Mirpuri and world-record breaking wheelchair racer Dr William Tan. The Scholarship has also been known in Singapore as the Raffles Scholarship.

The Chevening Scholarship supports successful applicants to pursue a Master's-level course at a university of their choosing.

[Applications for study in 2022-2023](#) are open until 2 November 2021, 12:00 (GMT)

For media queries, please contact:

Adrian Lim
Communications Manager
British High Commission Singapore

Adrian.Lim@fcdo.gov.uk