



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

# Public Health Alert

**October 7, 2020-** The Behavioral Health Services division of the Frederick County Health Department has identified the previously unknown substance first reported in Frederick in July 2020 as xylazine. Xylazine is often used as a sedative, muscle relaxant and analgesic in animals and is not approved for human consumption. Xylazine is found to be cut in heroin, fentanyl and cocaine and is associated with tissue damage when injected or inhaled. When injected, individuals have reported the deep tissue injury starts as a small discoloration (purplish) at the injection site and progresses outward into an open wound. Individuals who have inhaled or snorted the substance report expulsion of what may be tissue from nasal passages.

Xylazine has been involved in fatal overdoses in Frederick County. Narcan does not work on this substance, but since it is a cutting agent often mixed with opioids, **Narcan should still be administered.**

Reports indicate the substance is white/grey in color and turns pink when water is added. Xylazine is also associated with blackouts and more intense withdrawal symptoms. It might also be known as Collateral Damage, Cardi B, Steph Curry, 550, Rampage or Black Mask.

The Frederick County Health Department Behavioral Health Service's Syringe Services Program has a nurse on-site every Friday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at 300B Scotty's Bus Lane (formerly Scholl's Lane), Frederick, MD to provide education, wound assessment and supplies. If you or a loved one is in need of support, system navigation, harm reduction supplies or treatment resources, please call 301-600-1777 or email [harmreductionservices@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:harmreductionservices@frederickcountymd.gov).

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