April 2023 Issue 39

CMDHD Today

Central Michigan District Health Department Newsletter

What's Happening

- CMDHD closed on April 7 for Good Friday; reopening Monday, April 10 at 8:30am.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) detected in Eaton County backyard flock
- MDHHS launches OpiRescue smartphone app to help Michigan residents prevent and reduce opioid overdoses
- National Medication Take Back Day is April 22
- TB is Still Here – New CDC Data Show U.S. Cases Increased Again in 2022
- Xylazine overdoses increase in Isabella County

COVID and Emerging Diseases

- CMDHD walk-in clinics for COVID, flu, and routine vaccines
- Check your COVID home tests for extended expiration dates before you throw them away
- USPS offering 4 more at-home COVID tests for free
- CMDHD COVID testing sites
- MDHHS COVID dashboard
- CMDHD COVID data & statistics

Xylazine

What is Xylazine?

Xylazine is a drug used as an animal "take down" agent and anesthetic and is known by the trade name Rompun.

Xylazine causes sedation and anesthesia, respiratory depression, slow heart rate, muscle relaxation and potential pain relief. However, for humans it causes significant slowing of the heart rate and low blood pressure

How is Xylazine taken?

Xylazine can be inhaled, smoked, snorted, swallowed, or injected in a muscle or vein

*There is no current information on vaping

How long does Xylazine stay in your system?

Xylazine has rapid onset and can last +8 hours or longer depending on the dose, the way it was taken, and whether it was mixed with an opioid or other drug

Physical Signs of someone who has taken Xylazine:

Mild Dose:

- dry mouth
- heart rate and blood pressure drop

Fatal Dose:

- Comatose with small pupils
- Muscles become floppy
- Body temperature can drop
- Breathing will decrease and eventually stop

Looks very similar to an opioid overdose

Why Naloxone does not work with Xylazine:

Xylazine does not bind to opioid receptors, so it will not respond to naloxone. Therefore,

naloxone cannot reverse a xylazine overdose.

What to do if someone is unresponsive after taking Xylazine:

1. Call 911
2. Stimulate the person by:
   - Calling their name
   - Vigorously rub knuckles into their sternum
3. Support the persons breathing
   - Be sure the airway is clear
   - Tilt the head back, plug nose
   - One breath every 5 seconds
4. Chest Compressions
   - Place the person on his or her back
   - Press hard and fast on the center of the chest
   - Keep your arms extended

Michigan Regional Poison Control Center. (2014). Xylazine. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Xylazine03042019_648483_7.pdf. , S. A. M. H. S. A. (n.d.). Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit . Five Essential Steps for First Responders . https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/five-essential-steps-for-first-responders.pdf.