

Important Phone numbers

Call these Drug User organisations for advice and more information

John Mordaunt Trust	020 8846 6611 (Thurs and Friday only)
The Methadone Alliance	020 8374 4395 (Office Hours and Helpline Tues and Thurs 7.30 – 9.30 pm)
National Drug Users Network	020 8986 5475 (Office Hours)
Respect East London	020 8986 5475 (Office Hours)
Mainline Manchester	0161 227 9299 (Monday to Friday 9-9)

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URGENT HEALTH ALERT

for INJECTING DRUG USERS

from these USER-LED ORGANISATIONS

The Methadone Alliance – The John Mordaunt Trust – The National Drug User Network – Black Poppy – Respect East London – Mainline Manchester

Supported by  DrugScope

CONTAMINATED HEROIN

You have probably seen on TV or heard from friends that a number of injecting drug users have died in Glasgow recently. There are also cases now in Manchester and Liverpool.

IF YOU INJECT HEROIN THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU

This illness particularly affects people who are injecting into muscles, or who have missed a vein when injecting.

No one is entirely certain what is happening. But experts tell us that they suspect a batch of heroin has been contaminated by potentially deadly bacteria from soil. The number of cases and the way it is spreading to different cities suggests that there may be a large amount of heroin which is contaminated.

There is also concern amongst doctors that the amount of citric acid people need to mix this gear may help the bacteria to attack the body.

An early symptom of this illness is an ABCESS. This does not get better. You then start to feel quite unwell, with a fever.

More than half the people infected have died very quickly - despite treatment in hospital.

So far, 35 people have died in the UK during the last couple of months. More women than men have been affected – they seem to inject into muscles more often.

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TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

- ◆ **Smoke heroin for the moment. Avoid injecting if you can.**
- ◆ **If you get an abcess anywhere on your body or soreness at an injection site, seek medical help quickly.**
- ◆ **If you do inject, use the smallest amount of citric acid you can to dissolve your heroin.**

This is a serious situation. Look after yourself and your friends.