EARLY TREATMENT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.

If you suspect you may have anthrax go to your nearest A&E

If you want advice on local drug treatment services contact:

www.scottishdrugservices.com

**Know The Score
0800 587 587 9**

ANTHRAX ALERT
HEROIN USERS ARE AT RISK

SDF
Scottish Drugs Forum

NHS
SCOTLAND

www.scottishdrugservices.com

ANTHRAX

What is anthrax?
Anthrax is a bug which has got into batches of heroin sold across Europe several times in the last few years. It can kill if not treated quickly. A number of people in Scotland died from the anthrax bug in 2009/10.
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How can you get anthrax?
You can get anthrax by both injecting and smoking heroin.

How can I tell if my heroin is contaminated with anthrax?
Unfortunately, there is no way of telling if the heroin you have is contaminated with the anthrax bug. It may look the same and it may dissolve or burn the same but it could still contain anthrax.

What are the signs and symptoms?
If injecting heroin – you may have swelling and redness at the injecting site leading to an abscess or ulcer. You may have other symptoms such as fever and headache.

If smoking heroin – you may have a fever or flu like symptoms, feel sick and find it hard to breathe.

What should I do if I have these symptoms?
If you have any of the symptoms you need to get medical help quickly. Go to A&E as soon as possible.

HOW TO REDUCE THE RISKS

1) **There is no safe way of taking heroin.**

2) **Stop using heroin and if not at least use less.**

3) **Go to your local drug treatment service to discuss alternatives such as methadone.**

4) **If you continue to use heroin, don't share needles, syringes, cookers/spoons or other 'works' with other drug users.**

BE AWARE OF THE EARLY SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

O **Redness and swelling at the site, if injecting heroin**

O **Fever and flu like symptoms, if heroin is smoked**

IF YOU DEVELOP ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS GO TO YOUR NEAREST A&E

Please tell any heroin users you know about anthrax and how to keep themselves safe.
Early treatment with antibiotics can be life saving.