

INPUD



International Network of People *who* Use Drugs

ANTHRAX ALERT

**If you use heroin
you are at risk!**

**If you or anyone you know of has the
symptoms described in this leaflet go to
the nearest hospital immediately!**

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Anthrax

What is anthrax?

Anthrax is a bug that has been contaminating Heroin for the last few years. Recently it has been found in Denmark and Germany, and is now in Scotland (July 2012).

How can you get anthrax?

If your heroin contains anthrax you can get sick whether you inject, chase or snort.

Is there any way I can see if my heroin has anthrax?

NO! There is no way of telling if the heroin is contaminated with anthrax. It will look like any everyday hit, it will dissolve and burn the same but can still contain anthrax.

What are the Signs and Symptoms to look out for?

If injecting:

- You could have swelling and redness around the injecting site that could form an abscess or ulcer.
- You may feel ill, like with Flu (headaches and fever).

If inhaling (smoking, chasing, snorting):

- You could have a fever or headache, feel sick and have difficulty breathing.

Reducing the Risks

1. There is no safe way to take heroin.
2. Try to stop using heroin, or reduce amount used.
3. If you use heroin don't share cookers, spoons, syringes, water, filters.

Be aware of early signs and symptoms!

- **If injecting:** Redness and Swelling at injecting site
- **If inhaling – smoking, chasing or snorting:** Fever, Headaches and Flu like symptoms

If you are concerned about possible symptoms, contact your local Hospital, Health Clinic or Drug Services immediately!