

# Possible Drug Ingestion Guideline

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## Assessment:

- What concerns were noted to initiate the call to the nurse?
  - Staff concerns such as noting a change in behavior, slurred speech, difficulty walking, etc.
  - Student report of having symptoms or admitting to an ingestion.
- ABC's should be evaluated immediately.
  - Airway/Breathing: is the airway open, are they breathing.
    - RR, any distress, snoring or gasping.
  - Circulation:
    - Color, HR, rhythm
      - Are they pink, pale, cyanotic, tachy or bradycardic
  - Disability: AVPU
    - Are they alert, respond to verbal, respond to pain or unresponsive.
- If the student is having difficulty breathing, is not alert or has any other sign of a life threatening condition call 911, get AED and prepare to begin CPR if needed.
- If the student is in no immediate danger proceed with your assessment.
  - Ask if they ingested anything:
    - Did they smoke, swallow, chew, huff, inject, use a patch, vape something of their own or someone else's?
    - Did they take a pill, food, candy, etc from anyone?
  - What is their behavior like?
    - Drowsy, hyper alert, fidgeting, giggling.
    - Note their speech: is it slurred, are they slow to respond to questions, are they able to respond appropriately to questions such as who they are, where they are, etc.
    - Check balance and coordination.
    - Check pupil response

- Pupil size, reactivity.
  - Stimulants such as cocaine, hallucinogenic such as mushrooms, and cannabis can cause dilation.
  - Narcotics can cause constriction.
- Can they appropriately track an item such as a finger or tip of pen.
- Do they have nystagmus.

**Recommendations:**

- If the student is having difficulty breathing, is not alert or has any other sign of a life threatening condition call 911, get AED and prepare to begin CPR if needed.
- If the student is not in immediate danger notify parent, request pick up and monitoring at home or to be taken to ER for evaluation and determination of what may have been ingested.
- Remember it is not our job to investigate and we cannot say with 100% certainty that they are under the influence or what they may have ingested, unless they admit to it.
- Our job is to determine if they are in immediate danger, if so, call 911. If not then we refer further evaluation and care to a parent/guardian and any discipline to the school.
- If the student is not able to be picked up by a parent and is not appropriate to remain in school, consider calling EMS for transport to be evaluated and monitored until a parent can arrive. If they are under the influence and cannot participate in class it is not expected that the school monitor them for any progression of symptoms.