



**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**BRAD D. SCHIMEL
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Paul W. Connell
Deputy Attorney General**

**Delanie M. Breuer
Chief of Staff**

114 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857
608/266-1221
TTY 1-800-947-3529

July 17, 2017

Dear Law Enforcement Colleague:

With increasing frequency, law enforcement officers are exposed to potentially-dangerous unidentified powders. The influx of fentanyl, fentanyl derivatives, and other synthetic drugs into our state is troubling because a small amount of the drug has the potential to cause great harm. Recently, a police officer in Ohio overdosed on fentanyl after brushing the substance off his uniform. You and your brothers and sisters step into the unknown at the start of every shift so we must minimize risks and whenever possible, provide certainty that can save lives.

To assist law enforcement in quickly identifying unknown powders, the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory (WSCL) Bureau will now be permitting law enforcement officers to perform their own field tests at the WSCL, instead of at an uncontrolled location, such as a crime scene or agency evidence storage room.

Under the supervision of WSCL analysts, participating officers will open the unidentified powder in a fume hood; remove a sample with WSCL disposable pipettes; conduct the field test; reclose the sample in the hood; and securely double-bag the sample. The WSCL requires officers to bring a personal protective medical mask or respirator with a minimum "N95" rating, latex gloves, protective eye goggles, packaging supplies, and field test kits. The WSCL maintains an inventory of emergency doses of Narcan® for laboratory emergencies. After law enforcement officers complete their field test, their agency may submit the sample for further testing. If a sample tests negative for fentanyl, the laboratories will not accept it as a rush case.

The three WSCL locations will make time available each Tuesday and Friday for field testing. To schedule an appointment to conduct a field test with a WSCL analyst, or if you have any additional questions, please contact the laboratory in your service area.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Schimel', written over a white background.

Brad D. Schimel
Wisconsin Attorney General

Due to the recent exposure to potentially dangerous powders encountered on the street, the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory Bureau will permit Law Enforcement Officers to perform these field tests in our laboratory fume hoods. Law Enforcement agencies must provide their own masks (minimum N95), gloves, goggles, packaging supplies and field test kits. The labs will provide the use of Narcan should it be necessary.

An analyst from the laboratory staff will observe for safety reasons but will not assist the field testing. The evidence will not be receipted into the laboratories before coming into the laboratories to perform the field testing. Agencies will open the suspected material in the hood, remove a sample with our disposable pipettes, field test and then reclose the sample in the hood and double bag the sample. Agencies will not obtain a weight of the sample at the laboratories. After field testing the agency may submit the sample for testing through the normal course of business. If a sample tests negative, the laboratories will not accept it as a rush case.

Each laboratory will offer a two or three hour window on Tuesdays and Fridays each week that fits best with their schedules. If you have any additional questions or to schedule a time for testing, please contact the laboratory in your service area.

Madison Laboratory

4626 University Avenue

Madison, WI 53705

608-266-2031

Milwaukee Laboratory

1578 S 11th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53204

414-382-7500

Wausau Laboratory

7100 Stewart Ave

Wausau, WI 54401

715-845-8626