

September 5, 2019

To: Dana Larsen  
Founder, Get your Drugs Tested  
880 Hastings Street East, Vancouver, BC

**Re: Drug checking as overdose prevention service at 880 East Hastings, Vancouver, BC**

In keeping with the public health emergency declared by the Provincial Health Officer on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 under Section 52 (2) of the *Public Health Act* S.B.C. 2008, Chapter 28, and in keeping with Ministerial Order M488 under section 5.2 of the *Emergency Health Services Act*, I am satisfied that the drug checking service operated by Get Your Drugs Tested which includes a walk-in and mail-in service model at 880 East Hastings in Vancouver, BC has met the requirements for providing drug checking as an overdose prevention service.

Drug checking refers to the use of testing methods to assist in the identification of illicit substances for the purpose of reducing harms such as overdose. This designation is contingent upon operating the drug checking service according to the following principles:

- Service Model: Drug checking will be offered in a discrete manner so that drugs and drug testing are not visible from outside of 880 East Hastings or to people attending 880 East Hastings for purposes other than drug checking. Get Your Drugs Tested agrees not to charge clients for overdose prevention services. Donations may be accepted.
- Training: Drug checking technicians will have undergone appropriate training. Completion of BC Centre on Substance Use Drug Checking Technician training is preferred.
- Technology: Drug checking will be provided using health authority approved testing methods such as FTIR spectroscopy and immunoassay test strips. Get Your Drugs Tested will consult with the health authority before implementing new drug checking technologies.
- Disposal: Any drugs left onsite by clients will be disposed following health authority approved disposal procedures.
- Data: Drug checking results will be provided to the health authority in a timely manner.

This designation only applies during the public health emergency and at the location specified above unless modified, extended, or terminated by a Medical Health Officer.



Dr. Mark Lysyshyn  
Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority