

Paper Straws



Q & A

Paper straws pre-cut to 3" in two colours will be available April 1, 2020

Please contact OHRDP if you would like samples.

Why is OHRDP adding straws to the Order Form?

- Paper straws are available as a safer inhalation supply used for snorting powdered forms of drugs, and/or inhalation of vapour from heated drugs such as chasing the dragon
- Paper straws will help programs replace plastic straws they may be purchasing and to provide straws to those sites who currently do not offer them
- Straws are single use and are available in two colours (blue and yellow) to support clients having their own straw and not sharing
- A sharp increase in the distribution of Pyrex straight stems has occurred since OHRDP introduced foil as a supply. We know many programs are including straight stems in snorting and chasing the dragon kits and encourage a move to replacing the straight stems with paper straws in addition to instructing clients how to make foil pipes out of the foil available through OHRDP

How should you distribute paper straws?

- Straws should be available in both individual and kit options
- From the information OHRDP has gathered from sites providing snorting kits, 2-6 straws per kit would be the norm. Your program will need to determine what will work best for your community when including straws in snorting kits
- Provide straws in both colours to support clients having their own colour and not sharing their straw

What messages can you give clients about using paper straws?

- When snorting drugs, the membranes in your nose can be damaged causing nose bleeds. Not sharing straws will ensure blood is not passed to another person
- If you or someone you share straws with has Hep C, you risk infecting someone or becoming infected yourself

As always, we ask
NSPs to be mindful of
OHRDP's publicly
funded supplies and
find ways to avoid
wastage – thank you

Resources and Information

Hepatitis C: An In-Depth Guide

<https://www.catie.ca/en/practical-guides/hepc-in-depth/prevention-harm-reduction/safer-snorting>

Safer Snorting booklet

<http://librarypdf.catie.ca/PDF/ATI-70000s/70101.pdf>

Have Questions?

Contact the Ontario Harm Reduction
Distribution Program (OHRDP) if you have
questions about this or other
harm reduction supplies
info@ohrdp.ca or 1.866.316.2217

Contact the Ontario Harm Reduction
Network (OHRN) if you have
questions about
harm reduction education
1.866.591.0347