

# MADDS Test Strip Adverse Event Protocol

V 1.0 January 29, 2026

## Adverse Event Definition:

An adverse test strip event is any unexpected or incorrect test strip result, performance issue, or use-related problem that could reasonably lead to inaccurate interpretation of drug contents, inappropriate risk assessment, or harm to participants, staff, or programs. It is important that you act quickly if you suspect a test strip issue.

## Examples:

- False positives (e.g., fentanyl detected when confirmatory testing shows none)
- False negatives (e.g., fentanyl present but strip reads negative)
- Batch or lot-specific failures
- Inconsistent results across identical samples or repeated tests

## Why this matters:

- Can directly change participant behavior (use more cautiously vs. falsely reassured)
- Can affect trust in drug checking services
- Safety issue for all involved and may be affecting others using the same strips elsewhere

We work with University of Notre Dame's Dr. Marya Lieberman because she and her lab have been studying test strips and their safety and performance. She has been tracking and testing test strips to investigate things like lot variability and faulty strips.

In this overview you will find a protocol for what to do if you experience a test strip issue, a link to the form for reporting an issue, and instructions for mailing your concerning test strip(s) to Dr. Lieberman's lab.

## What to expect:

In Massachusetts, every incident filed will be investigated, catalogued, and tested at Dr. Lieberman's lab with results reported directly to the submitter and also included in a running

table that will serve as an accounting with (anonymized) reports online at [StreetCheck.org](https://StreetCheck.org). Results from other safety testing conducted by Dr. Lieberman’s lab can be found [here](#).

## Protocol:

In the case of an adverse test strip event:

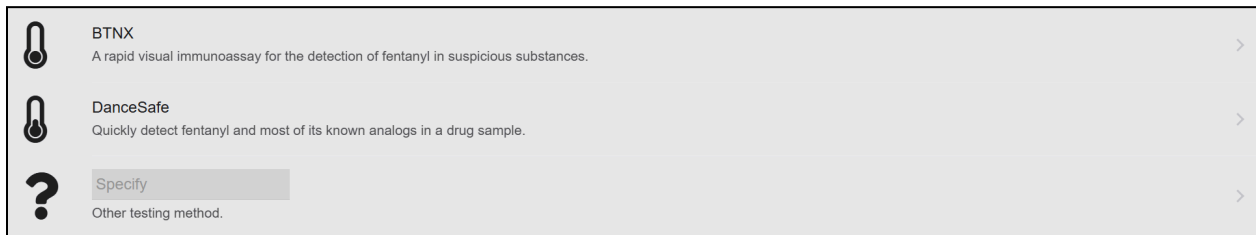
Set aside the test strip(s). Let it dry out, place back into original packaging with the desiccant bag and tape shut. Label with sample ID in sharpie on the package. Please see below for further packaging/mailling instructions if applicable.

If not logged into StreetCheck platform:

Report your test strip issue on [this form](#) on the StreetCheck website.

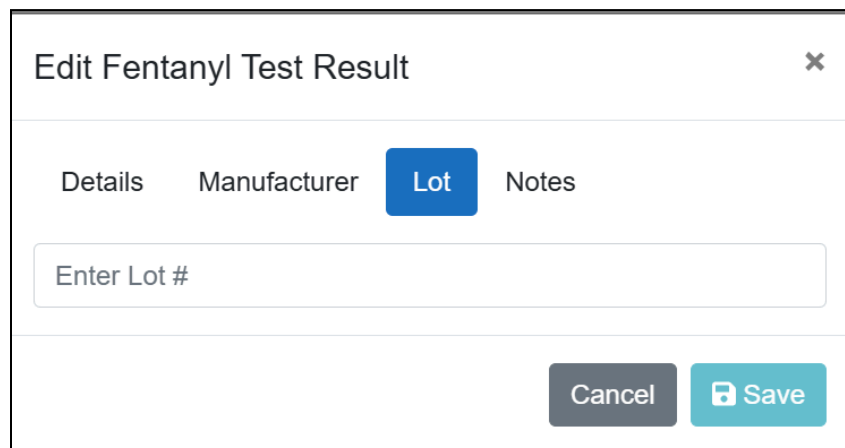
If logged into StreetCheck platform:

1. Enter all usual information about the sample and what testing you did into Streetcheck. Make sure to add:
  - a. Test strip Manufacturer (e.g., Wisebatch,BTNX)



A screenshot of a dropdown menu for selecting a test strip manufacturer. The menu is light gray with a dark border. It contains three items, each with a small icon on the left and a right-pointing chevron on the right. The first item has a thermometer icon and the text "BTNX" followed by "A rapid visual immunoassay for the detection of fentanyl in suspicious substances." The second item has a thermometer icon and the text "DanceSafe" followed by "Quickly detect fentanyl and most of its known analogs in a drug sample." The third item has a question mark icon and the text "Specify" followed by "Other testing method." The "Specify" text is inside a light gray input field.

- b. Lot number (these are printed on each of the packages as well as on the box of strips) – the Collector does not allow you to enter the lot number, so be sure to upload a picture of the packaging where the lot number is visible– you can also enter the lot number through the StreetCheck portal by editing the original test strip results and navigating to “Lot”.



A screenshot of a web form titled "Edit Fentanyl Test Result" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The form has a horizontal navigation bar with four tabs: "Details", "Manufacturer", "Lot", and "Notes". The "Lot" tab is currently selected and highlighted with a blue background. Below the tabs is a text input field with the placeholder text "Enter Lot #". At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: a gray "Cancel" button and a teal "Save" button with a white floppy disk icon.

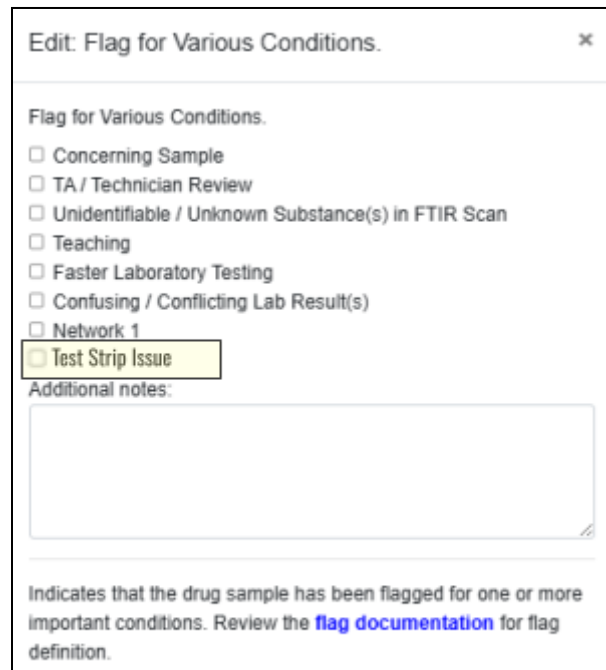
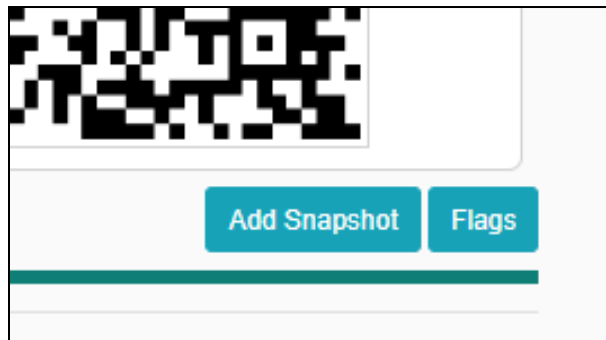
c. Brief summary of test strip event in the test strip results notes section

✔ Please enter any final notes and drug result details.

PLEASE ENTER ANY ADDITIONAL NOTES.

2. Adhere a “Test Strip Issue” Flag to the sample in StreetCheck Portal or Collector

- a. **Portal:** Search and select the sample you want to flag. Once in the sample editing screen in the portal, click on the “Flags” button just below the QR code / photos and next to the “Add Snapshots” button. Select “Test Strip Issue”



- b. **Collector:** Once you reach the Final Details page in the Collector, select the “Test Strip Issue” Flag.

Final Details

SampleID

Enter any final notes or sample details

NOTES

PLEASE FLAG THE SAMPLE FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS (REVIEW THE [FLAG DOCUMENTATION](#) FOR FLAG DEFINITION):

Concerning Sample	<input type="radio"/>
TA / Technician Review	<input type="radio"/>
Unidentifiable / Unknown Substance(s) in FTIR Scan	<input type="radio"/>
Teaching	<input type="radio"/>
Faster Laboratory Testing	<input type="radio"/>
Confusing / Conflicting Lab Result(s)	<input type="radio"/>
Network 1	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Test Strip Issue</b>	<input type="radio"/>

- c. A pop-up will appear. Click the link and **fill out the form** to record more information about the event.
- d. Alternatively, you can reach out to [madds@brandeis.edu](mailto:madds@brandeis.edu) and provide the same information in an email with subject line : TEST STRIP ISSUE
3. Please put your test strip(s) aside, and wait for confirmation from the MADDs team before packaging/ mailing offsite for further analysis. We will be in touch within 24-48 hours.

# Instructions for shipping used test strips to University of Notre Dame for analysis

Revision date: 16 Sept 2025 ML

## USED TEST STRIPS (FTS, BTS, XTS, MTS, ETC)

**Keep 'em dry:** Let each strip dry on a clean paper towel for about 30 minutes.

**Put the strip back in its foil pouch:** Include the little desiccant pack to keep the strip dry. Tape the pouch shut so the strip won't fall out.

**Identify:** Write a sample ID number on the packet in Sharpie/permanent marker, and record it so you can look up the results later.

**Pack each foil pouch in a ziplock bag:** Strips from different drug samples need to go in different zip-top baggies. If you run different test strips from the same drug sample, all the pouches can go into the same zip-top baggie (we will analyze them together). If you have just one strip/foil pouch, you can place this in an envelope and mail it.

## PREPARING FOR SHIPMENT

**All the data!** Fill out the online TEST STRIP ISSUE form, or email [MADDS@Brandeis.edu](mailto:MADDS@Brandeis.edu) with strip information. If you have many samples, you can contact Dr. Lieberman and we will work out a spreadsheet-friendly option.

**Storage:** Store the samples in the fridge if possible, otherwise at cool room temperature, for less than 1 week.

**Secondary containment:** If the shipping envelope or box experiences massive shipping trauma, we do not want your samples to come flying out. Prevent this by putting your packaged samples together into a bigger baggie, Tyvek envelope, or box, and taping or rubber-banding it all securely together. If you are sending just one sample, put it into a sealed envelope.

## SHIPPING DIRECTIONS

Before sending a shipment, contact Prof Lieberman to work out logistics and timeline. We can receive shipments via FedEx, US postal mail, UPS, and DHL.

**Ship (ideally via 2<sup>nd</sup> day mail) to:**

Safer Communities Project  
Chemistry Stockroom/Marya Lieberman  
149E Stepan Chemistry Hall  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame IN 46556  
Lieberman's text/What's App number: 574.323.6660

**SAMPLE INFORMATION (OK TO USE THE STREETCHECK REPORTING FORM INSTEAD OF WRITING THIS OUT)**

Your email:

Your agency:

City/state:

**THE SAMPLE**

StreetCheck sample ID number for this sample:

What is the main issue with this strip?

Date sample was prepared for testing & how it was prepared:

Any unusual user effects reported for this sample?

Results on FTS?

Brand/lot number of FTS:

Results on BTS?

Brand/lot number of BTS:

Results on XTS?

Brand/lot number of XTS:

Any unusual user effects reported for this sample?

Other notes/concerns?

**View the lab results for submitted strips here: <https://tinyurl.com/ftsbtsts>**

[the data sharing can be done in different ways for different partners]