

## Using LSD Test Strips for Drug Checking

### Background

- Lysergic acid diethylamide, commonly known as LSD or acid, is a strong psychedelic.
- LSD has a very small dose, around 100 micrograms, which is invisible to the naked eye. Because of this, LSD is most often placed onto colourful blotter paper (tabs) that are used for dosing.
- Due to the small dosage combined with the paper medium, FTIR drug checking is not suited to testing LSD blotters.
- Although not formally evaluated, LSD urinalysis immunoassay strips (test strips) can be effectively used to check for the presence of LSD.

### Recommendations

- Cut off a corner of the blotter paper (approximately one eighth ( $\frac{1}{8}$ ) of the tab).
- Place the corner of blotter paper into a small tube or cup and add approximately 2–5 mL of water.
  - LSD test strips should be used with less water than used with fentanyl test strips.
- Allow the sample to sit for 2 minutes to saturate the paper and allow the LSD to enter solution, swirl to mix.
- Hold the strip in the water ensuring the water level stays below the horizontal blue line. Wait until water flows up the strip, then lay the strip down on a flat surface.
- Results are displayed the same as fentanyl test strips.
  - 1 line = positive; 2 lines = negative
- Use the same water to perform a fentanyl test strip and a benzo test strip, if desired.
  - Fentanyl analogues and benzodiazepines can also be dosed onto blotter paper.
- 25i-NBOMe (“N-bomb”), sometimes sold as LSD, will not trigger the LSD test strip and will return a negative result.
  - Very little is known about the pharmacology of N-bomb drugs but they can be fatal at high doses. There is no possibility of overdose with LSD.

REMEMBER: LSD test strips cannot determine how much LSD is present.

### Harm Reduction Messaging\*

- An experienced trip sitter will greatly lower the likelihood of a difficult, unexpected experience, known as a “bad trip.”
- Discuss the importance of “set and setting.” Setting intention and controlling the space one is in will lower the chance of a bad trip.
- It is important to be in a good headspace before taking any psychedelic.
- Start with less and go slow. You can always re-dose, but wait an hour before doing so.

*\*Courtesy of ANKORS*