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NZ launches website to reduce drug harm

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An early warning system has been launched to help reduce drug harm in New Zealand communities.

Available at www.highalert.org.nz the system helps identify where drug harm is occurring, provides evidence and understanding of outbreaks of harm, and in some cases anticipates potential harm related to drug use.

Run by the Drug Information and Alert New Zealand (DIANZ) team, the website acts as a central point for all drug related data. It is the joint effort of a network of organisations who regularly encounter and respond to drug related harm.

“We are committed to taking a health approach to drug harm, so I am pleased that the High Alert website and system is now up and running,” said Richard Taylor, Group Manager Addiction, Mental Health and Addiction Directorate.

Alerts and notifications will be published on the website to inform the public and health professionals of any increased health risks of new drug trends or threats, such as contaminated drugs. Information and specific harm reduction advice based on the latest trends or threats will also be available.