

# Life Threatening Infection Seen in Heroin Users

3 King County residents who inject black tar heroin by muscling have died.  
Health officials believe they died of infection caused by *Clostridium*.  
This bacteria causes muscle tissue to die and toxins to spread in the body.

It is not known if *Clostridium* is in dope, the cut, or passed in other ways.

Cooking the dope will NOT kill it!!

## What do symptoms look & feel like?

- ▣ Skin around the injection site will get red and swell or become numb.
- ▣ Skin will feel warm and tender.
- ▣ There may be pain.
- ▣ The infection may ooze a brown to blood-colored watery discharge.
- ▣ At the beginning, it may look like a regular abscess, but it gets worse very quickly (a few hours).

If this infection is caught early, it can be treated.  
But it is very important to catch it early and begin treatment ... **immediately!**

If you have any of the symptoms,  
**Go to the nearest EMERGENCY ROOM...immediately!!!**

Take this flyer with you so you will be seen quickly.

Do not try to treat this infection yourself!