



Warning

Ballymun Area



ON PURCHASE OF **FAKE OR COUNTERFIT ALCOHOL**

The HSE has issued a public health alert about the danger of fake or counterfeit alcohol following the hospitalisation of a patient with methanol poisoning who bought from an unrecognised vendor in the **Ballymun area**.

It is understood that the patient, who is seriously ill in a Dublin hospital, drank liquid from a vodka bottle that had been re-filled with **methanol**, which is **highly toxic**.

The HSE is issuing the following advice to the public:

- Only buy alcohol from a recognised shop, off-license or licensed premises.
- If you bought alcohol from an unrecognised seller, do not drink it. Hand the bottle in to your local garda station to help in the investigation of this incident.
- If you recently drank alcohol from a bottle bought on the street and are concerned about symptoms, seek urgent medical advice.

Methanol is **highly toxic**. Consumption of methanol can cause **kidney failure, blindness and death**. Methanol is contained in solvents, anti-freeze and windscreen wash. It is also called methyl alcohol, carbinol, wood alcohol or wood spirit.

People who drink methanol may initially have symptoms which include:

- loss of balance,
- staggering
- slurred speech
- eye tremor.

There may be **a gap of 12 -24 hours** before symptoms of methanol poisoning develop. These can include headache, confusion, dizziness, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and rapid breathing. In severe cases, convulsions and coma can develop.

If you are concerned about symptoms seek medical advice

From your GP / D-Doc out of hours service 1850 22 44 77
or go to A&E

For a list of local alcohol & drug services go to
www.ballymunlocaldrugtaskforce.ie

