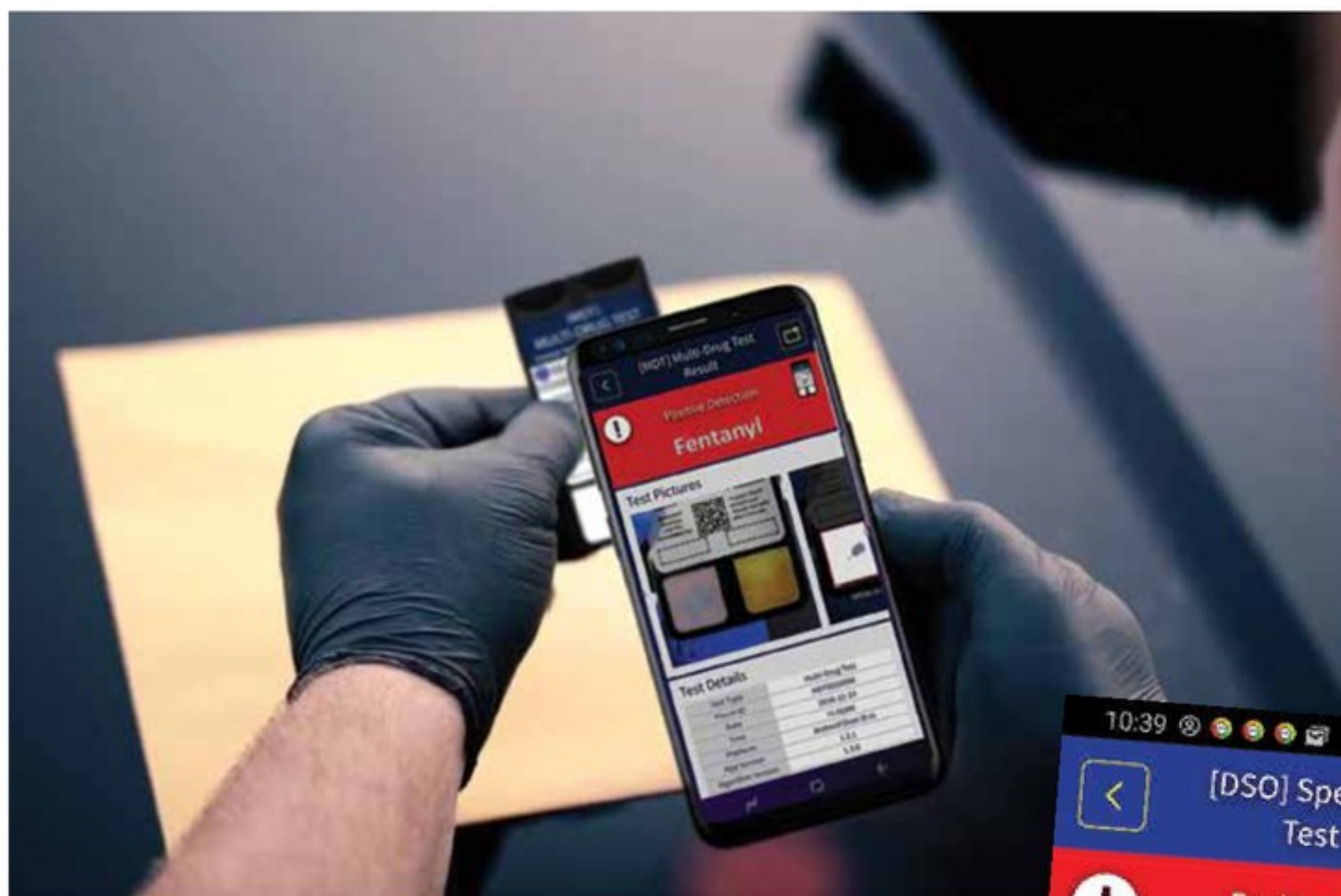


# Advances in Contraband Field Drug Testing for Correctional Officers



Opening bags of suspected drugs and contraband, scooping samples while spilling evidence, broken glass vials puncturing through the test kit and into the officer's fingers, and the familiar, "does that look purple to you, or more pinkish?" These are all unsettling situations and problems that arise when correctional officers use the traditional field test kits for drug detection. Another concern and known risk for field testing is the possible exposure to drugs that are being cut with fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.

You don't have to dive deep to find stories in the news about an officer's accidental exposure to fentanyl. There have been several cases of fentanyl exposure that highlight the graveness of the opioid crisis and how it puts law enforcement at potential risk. Not as prevalent as it is on the streets, fentanyl is also making its way into correctional facilities and officers need to take precautions. These traditional field drug testing kits aren't able to minimize exposure as officers have to open bags of the substance and scoop samples into the pouch to test the drug.

Luckily for correctional and law enforcement officers, there have been major recent advances in field-testing technology. No more scooping samples, no more color interpretation, no more broken vials, and bulk samples are no longer required in order to get a positive result. And just as important, this new technology is the same price as traditional test kits.

The MobileDetect app and corresponding drug testing pouches by DetectaChem are being used across the U.S. in law enforcement agencies, drug task forces, correctional facilities, and schools as well as federal and state agencies. Working closely with law enforcement officers to improve field drug testing capabilities, DetectaChem introduced the MobileDetect App, which evaluates the results of a color change for the user. The app automates the color assessment process and removes the need for an officer to reference color charts. The MobileDetect app can be downloaded on Apple and Android smartphones and tablets and can be used free of charge with no sign up or commitment.

MobileDetect utilizes custom pouches, which

contain an integrated swab used to collect the sample and chemical reagents that meet NIJ standards for probable cause. All the standard test kits like Cocaine, Synthetics, Methamphetamine and Heroin are offered. There is also a multi-drug test, called MDT, that tests for fentanyl analogues, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA/ecstasy, and opiate narcotics in a single test with identification. Other pouches such as gunshot residue, THC, LSD, PCP, GHB, mushrooms, and more are also available. You can visit [www.DetectaChem.com](http://www.DetectaChem.com) for a full list of the pouches.

MobileDetect addresses the issue of potentially exposing the user to the substance being tested by having to scoop copious amounts of samples into the test kit as well as the glass vials puncturing through and injuring the user. MobileDetect has a very low detection threshold that allows users to detect trace residue from bags, even if the sample is missing or has been fully used. The tests also work just as well on visible or bulk quantities. MobileDetect pouches use Safe Crushing Ampoules, preventing the ampoules from breaking through the pouch and injuring officers.

MobileDetect test kits are perfect for trash pulls, as

well as any scenario where only trace levels are present, like in pipes, cook spoons, scales, or syringes. Even letters, envelopes, hands, door handles or floorboards of cars can be sampled. MobileDetect is perfect for search and seizure of contraband in prison cells.

For many correctional facilities, Suboxone (buprenorphine), synthetics (K2, Spice, Bath Salts), cocaine and methamphetamine are the largest contraband concerns. MobileDetect excels in detecting these substances in bulk or residue form, even being able to detect substances dried into paper, packages, envelopes and clothing. Traditional field drug test kits come nowhere close to having this capability.

The complete process is as follows: the integrated swab is used to gather trace or bulk samples of the suspected drug; it is then re-inserted into the pouch. Next, the officer squeezes the sides of the pouch to break the ampoules which contains the test reagents, shake the pouch to release the

reagents, then push the swab all the way down to the bottom chamber with the clear window where a reaction will occur. Once the color change occurs, you can then open the MobileDetect app and scan the QR code on the pouch. Almost instantly, the app will bring up an automated result that matches the colorimetric reaction to the substance being tested, i.e. blue for cocaine or orange for methamphetamine.

Officers can test the suspected drug sample immediately on the scene and can create a PDF report via the app that can be used as evidence for probable cause and prosecution. The report captures date and time, photos of the test result and color reaction, test record, officer identification and more. The app also offers GPS coordinates of the test location (this feature can be turned off), and adds note-taking capabilities that could help with probable cause or court documentation purposes. This PDF report can then be emailed or texted directly from the app. Many agencies create an email or text grouping of officers so that all applicable officers can receive the detection report at once.

There is finally a superior alternative to the traditional field test kits that were introduced before many of the officers using them were even born. The MobileDetect app and test pouches are the next generation of drug testing for correctional facilities and provide capabilities that help keep contraband out of prisons.

The MobileDetect app can be downloaded for free on Apple and Android smartphones and tablets. MobileDetect test kits are available at [www.DetectaChem.com](http://www.DetectaChem.com).

