

Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

What Families Need to Know SIX FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL AND FAKE PILLS

What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a pain medication that is **100 times** stronger than morphine. Fentanyl is now being illegally made and sold as a street drug. Due to fentanyl's highly addictive qualities, **fake pills** are being made with unknown quantities of fentanyl and used to imitate prescription medications like Oxycodone, Xanax, Percocet, and more.

Rainbow fentanyl is even being used to imitate candy that appeals to youth.

Illegally-made fentanyl can contain deadly doses of the drug and is contributing to the growing opioid crisis in the United States, causing medical emergencies and deaths across the country.



Is fentanyl affecting Tulare County?

In **2023** in Tulare County, there were **62** opioid deaths, in which **55** of these deaths were directly related to **fentanyl**.

How do I talk to my family about fentanyl?

Mention the news and this flyer as an opportunity to ask your family **what they may have seen and heard** about fentanyl and prescription pills. Share the facts, show your concern, and stress the importance of **ONLY** taking pills that are prescribed by a doctor.



What can I do to protect my family?

Illicit drugs are being sold on **social media**, so monitor your children's media accounts regularly and use parental controls. **Secure and keep track of medications** that you may have in the home and dispose of leftovers to prevent curious youth from experimenting with pills.

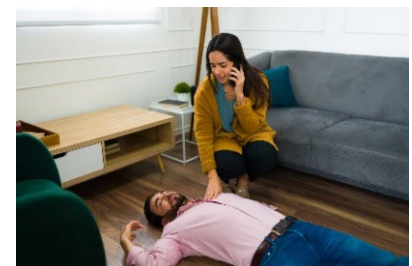
What is naloxone/Narcan?

Naloxone, also referred to as Narcan, is a lifesaving emergency medication that can stop opioid poisoning and restore breathing. Naloxone is now available over the counter to the community and can be purchased at most local stores.



What are the signs of a potential opioid poisoning or overdose?

If you think someone has suffered an opioid poisoning or overdose, immediately call 911 and administer Naloxone if available. Signs may include: falling asleep or loss of consciousness; slow, shallow breathing; choking or gurgling sounds; pale, blue or cold skin; limp body; and/or small constricted "pinpoint pupils".



(559) 651-0130

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