What Every Parent and Caregiver Needs to Know About FAKE PILLS

What is fentanyl?

- It is a deadly synthetic opioid that is being pressed into fake pills or cut into heroin, cocaine, and other street drugs to drive addiction.

What are fake pills?

- The Sinaloa Cartel and Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion are making fentanyl and pressing it into fake pills. Fake pills are made to look like OxyContin®, Xanax®, Adderall®, and other pharmaceuticals. These fake pills contain no legitimate medicine.

- Fentanyl is also made in a rainbow of colors so it looks like candy.

Why is fentanyl so dangerous?

- DEA lab testing reveals that four out of every ten fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.

What are the physical and mental effects of fentanyl?

- Fentanyl use can cause confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, changes in pupil size, cold and clammy skin, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death.

Visit www.dea.gov/onepill for more information and resources for parents and caregivers

*Photos of fake pills do not represent all available fake pills.

Data as of September 2022
How would my child get fentanyl?

- Drug traffickers are using social media to advertise drugs and conduct sales. If you have a smartphone and a social media account, then a drug trafficker can find you. This also means they are finding your kids who have social media accounts.

- To learn about emoji codes used on social media, visit Emoji Drug Code Decoded on www.dea.gov/onepill.

Why you should be concerned.

- The drug landscape is dramatically different from when you grew up, or even from just a few years ago.

- All parents and caregivers need to be educated on current drug threats to be able to have informed talks with their kids.

Tips for Parents and Caregivers

- Encourage open and honest communication

- Explain what fentanyl is and why it is so dangerous

- Stress not to take any pills that were not prescribed to you from a doctor

- No pill purchased on social media is safe

- Make sure they know fentanyl has been found in most illegal drugs

- Create an “exit plan” to help your child know what to do if they’re pressured to take a pill or use drugs

- For more tips on how to talk to your child about drugs, read Chapter 4 of Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent’s Guide to Substance Use Prevention at www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/publications

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