



HARLANDALE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fentanyl Awareness: One Pill can Kill

Facts & Resources

In Harlandale ISD's efforts to keep our students and community safe, we are reaching out to families about the growing concern of fentanyl overdoses nationwide.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are two types of fentanyl: Pharmaceutical fentanyl and illicitly manufactured fentanyl, both of which are considered synthetic opioids.

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is often the ingredient used in counterfeit pills purchased on the street or online. It is also known to be added to other drugs because of its extreme potency. This makes drugs cheaper, more addictive and more dangerous.

We encourage families to take the following steps:

- Talk to your children about the dangers of drugs and opioids. One of the best ways to protect students from substance abuse is by having regular and open conversations to educate them about the risks. Inform them that **ANY** pill they get from a friend or purchased online or on the street can be a counterfeit pill containing fentanyl.
- Reinforce that they should only take pills prescribed by a physician, filled at a pharmacy and ensure they always remain in their possession.

Harlandale ISD actions & resources:

- Students learn about the dangers of drug and opioid use during health class.
- Each campus nurse and/or counselor can provide additional information, answer questions or provide resources for families and students.

Websites:

- Centers for Disease Control's Fentanyl Facts: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- DEA's [Facts about Fentanyl](#)
- TEA's [Fentanyl Response Communications Toolkit](#)

We appreciate the support from our Harlandale ISD families, school staff and community as we continue to work together to keep our students safe and healthy