



PO Box 346
Maupin, OR 97037
www.swasco.net

Ryan Wraught, Superintendent
Mark Endsley, Principal
Telephone: (541)395-2225

Dear Students & Families,

Our school holds student wellbeing at the heart of the work that we do. We are writing to share concerns about fentanyl and opioid drugs. These drugs are harming people in our community. We hope this information will help protect students.

What is the danger? Each week, approximately 20 Oregonians die of drug overdose. Over half of these deaths involve synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Right now, fake opioid pills with fentanyl added to them are all over Oregon. These fake pills are extremely dangerous and are deceptively being sold as legitimate prescriptions. A single pill can cause overdose.

What is an opioid? Opioids are drugs that slow down breathing and make people feel sleepy. Opioids include morphine, oxycodone, dilaudid, and heroin. Fentanyl is another powerful opioid: a dose as small as a few grains of sand can kill a person.

Why do people use opioids? Opioids may be prescribed as pain medicine. Some young people try drugs because they are curious. Some people use drugs to avoid feeling difficult emotions. Opioids are addictive.

What is naloxone? Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a medication that can be delivered by a nasal spray or injection to quickly restore normal breathing for a person whose breathing has slowed down or stopped because of an overdose of fentanyl, prescription opioids or heroin. Naloxone onset occurs with 2-3 minutes and can last for 30-90 minutes. Sometimes a second dose of naloxone is necessary if symptoms of overdose return. Both our school offices have Narcan available in case an emergency may arise during school hours. We have been trained on how to use it and have information available. If you have reason to be concerned about opioids in your home, find out more at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/substanceuse/opioids/pages/naloxone.aspx>

What can we do? Talk about these concerns with your students and others you care about. This letter has important information, guidance to respond to an overdose, and resource links. Please share this with anyone who might need it. We care deeply about the health and safety of every student in our school community. We know these conversations can be hard. The best person to contact should you have questions is myself Mark Endsley.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Endsley", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Endsley, Principal
South Wasco County School Dist. #1
2/27/23

Key Messages for Prevention Education and Awareness

Youth need to know about the dangers of fentanyl. Schools, youth-serving organizations, and families should share the following messages with youth:

1. Counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl are flooding the Pacific Northwest. In just one year (2019-2020), Oregon saw a 74% increase in fentanyl-related deaths.
2. Do not take any pill that you do not directly get from your doctor or a pharmacist. Pills received from friends or purchased online or from social media are not safe.
3. Fentanyl is tasteless, odorless, and too small to see with the naked eye. It's extremely potent. An amount the size of two grains of sand is enough to cause a deadly overdose.
4. Fentanyl-laced pills appear identical to those prescribed by doctors. In Oregon, fentanyl is most commonly seen in blue, greenish, or pale colored counterfeit pills. More recently, law enforcement officers have seized fentanyl pressed into multi-colored pills that look like candy. These pills may be marked as "M30." Unless a pharmacist directly hands you a prescription pill, assume it is counterfeit and contains fentanyl.
5. There is no such thing as a "safe" source: pills are often laced with fentanyl long before they reach a direct supplier. Assume any pills obtained from social media, the internet, or a friend are counterfeit and contain fentanyl.
6. The blending of fentanyl in counterfeit pills is inconsistent and completely random, making every single dose a risk. One dose may not contain fentanyl, while another does—even though both come from the same supply.
7. Naloxone is the only medication that can reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone cannot be self-administered. It may take multiple doses of naloxone to reverse an overdose.
8. If someone is going to use, the best way to prevent a fatal overdose is to avoid using alone and to always have naloxone on hand. If using alone and you overdose, you can't call for help or administer naloxone to yourself.
9. The clearest sign of an overdose is if someone is unresponsive (won't wake up). Other signs include:
 - Slow, shallow or no breathing
 - Pinpoint pupils
 - Heavy gurgling or snoring sounds
 - Cold or clammy skin
 - Difficult to wake, or can't wake
 - Blue or gray skin, lips, or nails
10. An overdose is always a medical emergency. Call 911 immediately. Remember that the Good Samaritan Law protects witnesses and victims from being prosecuted for drug possession. If you seek medical assistance in a drug-related overdose, you and the victim cannot be prosecuted for drug possession.