

Subject: ALERT SCHOOLS: New Drug in schools - PLEASE READ

Coalition/ESPECIALLY SCHOOLS

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School Staff,

Please read the forwarded message below. I have been asked to forward this out to you. I want to make sure and state that we are NOT aware of this drug in our High School at this time. Of course, just because I'm not aware of it, doesn't mean its not here. It is best that as many people know about this is possible and that is why I'm sending it out to all staff and all parents. If you have any questions, please call.

"The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done; men and women who are creative, inventive and discoverers, who can be critical and verify -- and not accept -- everything they are offered."

Jean Piaget

With the permission of School Resource Officer with the Fargo-Moorhead Area School System, the following is a VERY SERIOUS safety concern in our schools, community and potentially workplaces. Please read and share this information with as many people as you can.

There is a drug that's becoming extremely popular very quickly among local high school students. Over the weekend there were 2 Fargo-Moorhead area students who overdosed and one who went into a seizure at School. This is EXTREAMLY dangerous, addictive and has the potency 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine. It's called **Furanyl Fentanyl. This is new to us in Law Enforcement as well to the community. Here is what we know. Students are buying it via the internet (it's manufactured as a research chemical) and mixing it with water. They put it in to nasal spray bottles such as Zicam and inhale by spraying it in their nose. Our understanding is some students are using it in class. If you notice a student using nasal spray in class or in the building please let me and administration know ASAP. If you find a bottle of nasal spray do NOT touch it, call local authorities. It can pose serious danger to anyone who comes in contact with it and is easily absorbed through the skin. I have attached some information about this drug.**

Furanyl fentanyl is a synthetic opiate. Indicators of opiate use are:

Mood/Psychological symptoms:

- Increased general anxiety
- Anxiety attacks

- Euphoria
- Psychosis
- Improved self-esteem
- Depression
- Irritability
- Lowered motivation

Behavioral symptoms:

- Opioids are used for longer or at a greater amount than intended
- Unsuccessful attempts to decrease the amount taken
- Large amount of time spent obtaining, using, or recovering from the drug
- Abandonment of important activities

Physical symptoms:

- Improved alertness
- Increased sensitivity to sensory stimuli
- Constricted blood vessels
- Increased heart rate
- High blood pressure
- Increased energy
- Decreased appetite
- Increased sexual arousal
- Physical agitation
- Difficulty sleeping
- Over arousal and hyper-vigilance

Recently we have been seeing a large increase in overdoses and deaths among heroin/opiate users. Initially our assessment was that this increase was limited to known heroin/opiate users. But recent information shows that use of this substance is much more widespread, is in our local high schools, and being widely abused by high school students. The culprit appears to be furanyl fentanyl.

Furanyl fentanyl is an analogue of fentanyl. Fentanyl is an extremely powerful synthetic pain killer. Fentanyl is normally reserved for very extreme medical cases of the terminally ill or those that experience severe pain, due to fentanyl's potency. Fentanyl comes in several forms, to include a trans dermal patch and a lollipop. It is prescribed very carefully and sparingly.

Furanyl fentanyl is very similar in effect and potency to fentanyl. Little is known about Furanyl fentanyl, due to it not being used medically. It being sold a "research chemical". Potency is 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine. Dose is in micrograms. Bottom line is that it is very dangerous.

Furanyl fentanyl is manufactured in China. The process requires difficult to obtain precursors and someone with advanced scientific knowledge and equipment.

Furanyl fentanyl has no medical use and is basically manufactured as a "research chemical". It can be ordered via the internet (not even the dark web, just the plain old internet) from China. It is manufactured in China, due to accessibility of precursors needed, availability of chemists willing to make it, the availability of complex equipment needed to make it, and lack of oversight in what companies are producing and selling! It is shipped to the US in powder and pill form.

We have been seeing Furanyl fentanyl in 3 distinct forms.

First, we have been seeing several heroin dealers selling a heroin/fentanyl mixture to heroin users. Due to the potency of fentanyl, many heroin users were overdosing, with some dying, while using what the users believed was heroin. Users were unaware that the heroin that they purchased contained fentanyl. We do not yet know the answer to this, but we are not sure that dealers selling the heroin were even aware that the product they were selling contained fentanyl. A heroin/fentanyl mixture looks just like heroin and users cannot tell by appearance that what they are buying/using is a heroin/fentanyl mixture. Heroin/fentanyl mixture can be injected or smoked by a user.

Second, we have been seeing powdered fentanyl. Powdered fentanyl is a very fine white to off white powder. This can be smoked or injected. This is ordered from websites selling “research chemical” out of China. It is shipped to the purchaser from China.

Lastly, we have been seeing powdered fentanyl in solution. Basically, this is powdered fentanyl dissolved into water. All information, to include multiple seizures and interviews, states that fentanyl in solution is placed in nasal spray bottles that can then be ingested nasally by users. Nasal spray bottles that seem to be popular are Zicam bottles, but it can be placed in any nasal spray bottles. Users use the fentanyl in solution by spraying it in their nose and inhaling the substance.

Due to a seizure that occurred recently within the FM area and an interview of a area High School student, it appears that fentanyl is very deeply entrenched in our schools. We don't have any specific information regarding other schools in the area, but based on info obtained yesterday and today, it is safe to assume that fentanyl has made its way into other local schools. Dealers in this setting appear to be students or recent graduates that still have ties to students. Users/consumers are students.

Based on information gained recently, the main thing to look out for are students with nasal spray bottles. Users of fentanyl in solution will often use multiple sprays per nostril each use. Any student appearing to be using an abnormal amount of nasal spray is likely using fentanyl in solution. There will be no way for a teacher, administrator, medical personnel, or LE to tell exactly what is in the bottle. A scientific test at the North Dakota State Crime Laboratory will have to be conducted to determine exactly what is in the bottle.

Information obtained today stated that many students are actively using fentanyl in schools via nasal spray bottles out in the open. Students are not attempting to conceal their usage, due to their confidence that they will not be caught. Please be aware that any student seen using a nasal spray in your school may be using fentanyl.

Exposure to fentanyl poses a serious danger to anyone that comes into contact with it. It can be absorbed through the skin and inadvertent exposure is a huge concern. Powder fentanyl is a fine powder and it can be

stirred up into the air very easily. Exposure to furanyl fentanyl could result in death.

Anyone that comes into contact with what they believe could be furanyl fentanyl needs to exercise extreme caution. The best course of action would be to call local Law Enforcement to safely handle the substance.

Anyone who has been exposed (whether intentional or unintentional) will need immediate medical attention. Exposures can likely lead to overdose and death. Medical attention is needed immediately and time is of the essence. Anyone who is exposed to an overdose may die, if medical attention is not received quickly.

Signs of an overdose are slow or lethargic movements and speech, a person going in and out of consciousness (known as “nodding” by opiate users), loss of consciousness, slowed heart beat and respirations, or lack of heart beat and respirations. Many OD victims found unconscious were said to have been very pale or blue in the face, from lack of oxygen due to depressed or lack of respirations. Anyone who does overdose will likely be conscious and lucid one moment and unconscious the next. It can happen in a second. We have had many overdoses recently where victims were found with a syringe still in their arm, so it is obvious that the OD happens quickly. Once a person had overdosed and lost consciousness, they are unable to help themselves.

This is not confirmed, but it is something we have heard multiple times recently among known furanyl fentanyl users, is that seizures may be experienced by users.

If anyone finds someone who is exhibiting the symptoms above and is suspected of overdosing, a quick medical response is critical. Also, performing CPR on the victim that has no pulse or respirations may save their life. EMT's can administer Narcan to try to stop the victim's body from taking in more of the substance that has caused the OD, but depending upon circumstances, response time can vary from several minutes to much longer. Performing CPR will help to continue circulating oxygen to the victim's body and could prevent them from going into cardiac arrest from lack of oxygen or could prevent other damage from lack of oxygen.

A discussion regarding the info above with on-site school nursing or medical staff may be beneficial.

Also, North Dakota and Minnesota both have “Good Samaritan” laws that immunize those present at an OD, as long as they call for help and assist the victim. The specifics of the laws in each state are different, but the intent of each state's laws is to allow others present to stay with the victim and provide aid without fear of prosecution. North Dakota statute does not immunize someone who sells, provides, or delivers a substance to another that OD's or dies.

School Resource Officer
Fargo Moorhead Area Schools, Community High

