



## Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools

May 9, 2023

Dear Santa Clara County Community Members,

Today marks National Fentanyl Awareness Day. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and a 100 times stronger morphine. Fentanyl in both powder and liquid forms is easily added to other drugs. Because of its extreme potency, fentanyl which makes the illegal drugs more addictive, dangerous, and deadly.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to educating others about the danger of fentanyl. In partnership with the County Behavioral Health Department, the SCCOE has launched a naloxone campaign to help combat the rise of opioid-based overdoses. The SCCOE is working with school districts and private schools to draft naloxone policy, train staff and community members to recognize a possible overdose and to administer the potentially life-saving medication. I invite you to the next community event on Thursday, May 11, 2023 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at 1290 Ridder Park Drive. For more information and to register, visit <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=746955>

Fentanyl also goes by the names: Apache, Jackpot, Dance Fever, Murder 8, Friend, Tango & Cash, or Goodfellas. Over 150 people die every day from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Recognizing signs of opioid overdose can save a life.

Signs include:

- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

It may be difficult to tell whether an individual is high or experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, treat it like an overdose as it could save a life. If you think someone is overdosing, follow these steps:

1. Immediately call 9-1-1
2. If available, administer naloxone
3. Try to keep the individual awake and breathing
4. To prevent choking, lay the individual on their side
5. Stay with the individual to until emergency services arrive

Additional information and resources are available at  
<https://sccoe.to/opioidoverdoseawareness>

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Dewan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan  
Santa Clara County Superintendent of School