



RE: Information About the Dangers of Fentanyl and Fake Pills

Dear Students & Families,

Our school holds student well-being at the heart of our work. 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, about 5 Oregonians die of a drug overdose. Fake opioid pills with fentanyl added to them are all over Oregon. These fake pills are extremely dangerous. A single pill can cause an 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 within 2-3 minutes and last 30-90 minutes. Sometimes a second dose of naloxone is necessary if symptoms of overdose return. If someone you know is using opioids, please think about getting Narcan to carry and have it available in your home. You can learn more about how to get Narcan and use it here: [Narcan Rescue for Opioid Overdose](#).

**What can we do?** Please talk about these concerns with your students and others you care about. This letter has important information, guidance for responding 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 Tobi Boyd at [tboyd@seasidek12.org](mailto:tboyd@seasidek12.org).

Warm regards,

Susan Penrod, Superintendent

Juli Wozniak  
Pacific Ridge Elementary  
Principal

Jeff Roberts  
Seaside Middle & High School  
Principal

Jenny Risner  
Director of Special Services