



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration
Behavioral Health

Clinic Services
Emergency Medical Services
Environmental Health/Animal Services

Public Health
Public Administrator/Public Guardian

Nationally Accredited for Providing Quality Health Services

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Health Alert

Increase in Overdoses Due to Counterfeit Drugs Contaminated with Fentanyl

Current Situation

Monterey County Public Health Officials have received reports indicating a recent increase in overdoses and deaths related to use of counterfeit drugs containing fentanyl. In some instances, individuals believed they were taking 30 mg Percocet pills. Other counties in California, including Santa Clara County, have also seen similar increases in overdoses related to counterfeit drugs contaminated with fentanyl.

Recommendations for Medical Providers

- 1. Consider opioid toxicity in patients presenting with respiratory depression and altered mental status.**
 - Other symptoms of overdose may include constricted pupils, snoring or gurgling sounds, drowsiness, and low blood pressure.
- 2. Be prepared to administer repeated doses of naloxone.** While naloxone is effective in reversing the effects of fentanyl and other opioids, repeated doses may be necessary due to the potency of fentanyl.
- 3. Contact California Poison Control for assistance** treating patients with suspected overdose: (800)-222-1222.
- 4. Counsel patients who use illicit drugs on how to stay safe.**
 - Never use street-purchased drugs alone or behind a locked door.
 - Always carry naloxone and know how to use it.
 - Call 9-1-1 if an overdose is suspected.
- 5. Voluntarily report suspected and confirmed overdoses associated with counterfeit drugs.** The information you submit will be used solely for public health purposes.
 - Call the Monterey County Health Department's Communicable Disease Unit at (831) 755-4521 or fax a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) form to (831) 775-8076.
 - After normal business hours, call (831) 755-5100 and ask for the Hazardous Materials Team, who will connect you with the on-call Health Officer.

For More Information

- Contact the Monterey County Health Department's Communicable Disease Unit at (831) 755-4521.
- Visit the Prescribe Safe Monterey County website: <https://www.montagehealth.org/montage-health/prescribe-safe/#.XYjePaZYaUk>.

Health Alert: Warrants immediate action or attention. **Health Advisory:** Provides information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action. **Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.