



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Expanded Help and Awareness for Fentanyl and Opioid Overdoses in San Joaquin County

Stockton, CA (April 21, 2022) — With the shocking rise in fentanyl-related overdoses, San Joaquin County Public Health Services (PHS) is expanding local resources and awareness of just how small an amount of fentanyl can kill unsuspecting users.



The [San Joaquin County Opioid Safety Coalition](#) is launching its **Fentanyl Is Forever** campaign in April to blanket the County with critical messages on drug-related overdoses. Watch and listen for these ads to appear on the sides of buses, in social media, and on community radio announcements.



Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid — up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Sold on the streets, fentanyl-containing counterfeit pills masquerading as prescription medication are causing a dramatic rise in overdose deaths. For comparison, a

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3-mg dose of fentanyl (27 times SMALLER than an 81-mg baby aspirin) can kill an average-size adult male.

Fentanyl is also being mixed in with other drugs like heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamines—causing a dramatic rise in deaths. For San Joaquin County, the fentanyl overdose death rate in 2021 was 20 times higher than in 2018. Over half the victims were between 14-35 years old.

Free Naloxone Program for San Joaquin

The San Joaquin County Opioid Safety Coalition also continues to offer a Free Naloxone Program. Naloxone reverses opioid overdoses, including those caused by fentanyl. Anyone concerned about family or friends at risk of opioid overdose can visit Public Health Services at

420 S. Wilson Way in Stockton, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., for a free naloxone nasal spray.

To learn more about the Fentanyl Is Forever campaign and other local opioid resources, visit www.SJCopioidsafety.org or call (209) 953-7309.

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Know the signs of overdose:

- Difficult to wake up
- Slowed breathing
- Confusion
- Blue or pale lips and fingernails

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If you notice these signs, call 911 immediately and give naloxone.