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## SYNTHETIC DRUG PREVENTION and AWARENESS (Fentanyl) Ed. Code: 48985.5

Synthetic drugs that are not prescribed by a physician, such as fentanyl have become a national crisis for youth. Drug dealers make fake pills with the cheaper, stronger, and deadlier synthetic drug fentanyl. Fentanyl can be up to 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Fentanyl is odorless, tasteless, and colorless. People may accidentally take fake drugs and never know what they are getting. One pill can kill.

As part of the ongoing efforts to increase awareness on the fentanyl crisis plaguing the nation and our schools, PazLo Education Foundation – Matrix for Success Academy has implemented the Naloxone (Narcan) program. Naloxone, often referred to as the brand name Narcan, is a life-saving medication that can be sprayed into a nostril to reverse an opioid overdose. When given in time, the medication restores normal breath to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped because of an opioid overdose.

PazLo Education Foundation – Matrix for Success Academy is actively training on-site administrators and staff to administer naloxone in an emergency situation. We continue to partner with health organizations and engage in interdivisional collaborations to raise awareness, prevent drug use, and reduce harm.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, is a prescription drug used to treat severe pain. Prescribed fentanyl is colorless, odorless, and can cause rapid respiratory depression resulting in accidental death.

Illegally made fentanyl, often referred to as "street" fentanyl, is sometimes mixed with other highly addictive and dangerous drugs like heroin and cocaine. Sometimes, street fentanyl is made with bright colors to resemble candy and appeal to youth.

Please beware that even one small dose of street fentanyl, the equivalent of 5-7 grains of salt, can be deadly. If you, or someone you know, is struggling with substance abuse, there is a free helpline available toll-free, 24/7, year-round, with interpretation as an option provided by the Los Angeles County's Substance Abuse Service Helpline (844) 804-7500.

For more information on the opioid epidemic, please refer to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website: <u>Understanding the Epidemic</u> Click Here.

## Additional Resource:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/sapb/Pages/Fentanyl.aspx?gclid=CjwKCAjwlJimBhAsEiwA1hrp5qv344HMa pv0xRus9jfqlLGf6Byb4dMmm Kr t0S4GCQ8bzXm6IBxBoClxkQAvD BwE&utm campaign=dc ope mc en&utm conten t=na&utm medium=paidsearch&utm\_source=dc gs&utm term=na\_na

