



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE



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Fentanyl Contamination in Narcotics

Lisa Warhuus, PhD
DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues:

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Last weekend, two teens died in Santa Rosa due to suspected fentanyl poisoning; two other teens were hospitalized. It was reported that the youth believed they were using cocaine; however, their drug supply was tainted with fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine. Numerous illegal narcotics are currently being mixed with fentanyl to increase potency, and often, the narcotics user is unaware of the potentially deadly fentanyl contamination.

3240 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901
415 473 4163 T
415 473 2326 F
TTY Dial 711
marinhhs.org/public-health

Since 2014, Marin County Public Health has spearheaded the OD Free Marin initiative to prevent and reduce opioid-related deaths. This strategy involves weekly surveillance, which includes wastewater monitoring and analysis of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) records from 911 calls. At this time, there is no evidence suggesting an uptick in overdose incidents among youth in Marin County linked to the Santa Rosa incident.

OD Free Marin also distributes harm-reduction tools including fentanyl test strips and opioid overdose reversal medications like naloxone. Marin County Public Health encourages all community members to carry naloxone. If you or someone you know uses drugs, we recommend using fentanyl test strips.

- Visit [Find Naloxone — OD Free Marin](#) to locate and learn more about naloxone.
- Visit [Fentanyl and test strips — OD Free Marin](#) to identify and learn more about fentanyl test strips.
- Visit [Data Dashboard — OD Free Marin](#) to learn more about overdose in Marin County.

Sincerely,

Melanie Thompson, DO
Deputy Public Health Officer
HealthOfficer@marincounty.gov