

Attention Solano County Parents:

Solano County School Districts are partnering with Solano Public Health to prevent opioid addiction and overdoses in our community. You may have already seen some information in the community regarding opioids and fentanyl being illegally added into fake street pills mimicking Oxycodone, Adderall or Xanax. As educational supplies allow, your middle school or high school student may be bringing home educational materials from Solano Public Health such as a flyer or bookmark. Sent out with this announcement is a fact sheet for your use and some tips for how to talk with your student about the materials they may be bringing home regarding the dangers of street drugs and fentanyl. You may have also seen the VibeSolano campaign messaging on social media, radio, buses, and newspapers. It is our goal to reach as many Solano County residents as possible to warn them about the difficulty in spotting a street fake versus real prescription medications and the fact that the street fakes often are laced with fentanyl. Opioid and Fentanyl use are national concerns as we continue to see an upward trend in overdoses and deaths in Solano County. We know the COVID pandemic caused a lot of collateral damage such as social isolation, job loss, loss of loved ones, and inflation which have all caused additional stress and mental health challenges for students and families. For those that feel overwhelmed or unable to cope, they may turn to substances to ease their discomfort, contributing to increasing rates of opioid addiction and dependency.

It is now more important than ever to educate our kids about their emotions, how to cope and the dangers of opioids and fentanyl. As our students are settling back into a more normal school routine and socializing with friends, it is important to talk to your kids, actively listen, be supportive, and be involved. Creating a safe environment is important to encourage open communication and decrease risks of accidents in the home. Make sure that prescription medications are locked up and out of the reach of kids, properly dispose of unused or expired medications, and keep track of the medications that your child is using. Educating our kids about ways to cope with stress, resources available to them, and the dangers of taking pills that are not prescribed to them is vital in preventing opioid addiction, fentanyl poisoning, overdose, or death. For more information on preventing youth opioid use, please visit [Vibesolano.com/be-informed/atod/opioidprevention](http://Vibesolano.com/be-informed/atod/opioidprevention). If your student is already addicted to drugs, or needs treatment and a different level of help, please contact Solano County Behavioral Health at 1(855) 765-9703 or visit [wellnessandrecovery@partnership.org](mailto:wellnessandrecovery@partnership.org).

