



East Ramapo Central School District

105 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977

A Unified Community Educating the Whole Child ...



Pomona Middle School

101 Pomona Road, Suffern, NY

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Dr. Clarence G. Ellis
Superintendent of Schools

Taren Washington-Peterson
Principal

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Assistant Principal

Dear Pomona family:

By now you may have heard the news about a high school student in Westchester County who was revived by a dose of Narcan administered by a school nurse. It is suspected that the student had been vaping marijuana that had been contaminated with fentanyl, a powerful opioid.

This incident shines a spotlight on an issue that challenges middle and high school students every day: e-cigarette (vape) use and its compounded danger from marijuana (cannabis) and fentanyl infusion. Although these topics are covered in health class and DARE, the most impactful messages come from home.

Vaping nicotine, marijuana vaping is increasing as the most popular method of cannabis delivery among all adolescents in the U.S., as is the frequency of marijuana vaping, according to research at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. The study found that the frequency of vaping marijuana among adolescent users is reported at six or more times per month, and rising quickly. Those who vape and smoke nicotine are more than 40 times more likely to also vape and smoke marijuana.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50-100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed for pain management treatment of cancer patients, applied in a patch on the skin. Because of its powerful opioid properties, Fentanyl is also diverted for abuse. Fentanyl is added to other drugs to increase their potency, which often results in overdose deaths. There have been recent reports of Fentanyl being found in Marijuana.

I have also included links below about vaping marijuana and signs that your student may be vaping. It is much easier to hide vaping than cigarette smoking.

DEA Vaping & Marijuana Concentrates Fact Sheet

Nebraska Medicine: 7 Signs Your Teen May be Vaping

<https://www.nebraskamed.com/primary-care/8-signs-your-teen-may-be-vaping>

Students can text “DITCHVAPE” to 88709 to access the program “This is Quitting”, a free, anonymous text messaging program tailored to specific age groups (13-17 and 18-24) that gives age appropriate quitting recommendations.

Parents can text “QUIT” to (847) 278-9715 to receive messages designed for the parent of vapers.

It is my hope this message will be the start of a very important dialogue. Parents of younger students, we are partners in a proactive way for education and awareness of the dangers of vaping.

Thank you for your support in keeping our schools healthy,

Nurse Kessarlis

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