



Board of Education

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Crystal Turner, Ed.D.
Superintendent

September 27, 2023

Dear SVUSD families:

SVUSD holds the health and safety of your children as its highest priority. Out of an abundance of caution, we have trained our administrators and staff to recognize an opioid overdose and respond using the emergency medication naloxone, sometimes referred to by the brand name NARCAN®. When given immediately, naloxone can stop opioids from acting on the brain and restore breathing.

We have supplied each of our school sites with a naloxone rescue kit that can be used in the unlikely event of an opioid overdose on campus. These kits will be kept in the health office alongside the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and epinephrine auto-injectors, which serve similar purposes in treating rare medical emergencies.

Fentanyl and the opioid crisis have continued to cause great concern in our community.

- Fentanyl, an opioid pain reliever 50 times as strong as heroin, is now being manufactured illegally by criminal organizations.
- This "illicit" fentanyl is mixed into street drugs like cocaine and heroin to make them more potent. It is also being pressed into counterfeit (fake) pills that look like prescription medications such as Percocet, Xanax, and Adderall.
- Youth and adults who purchase these drugs through social media or illegitimate online pharmacies may experience an opioid overdose, which can stop their breathing and lead to death.
- Fentanyl is synthetic, that is, it is formed from lab-made chemicals and not from naturally occurring ingredients. This makes the drug cheaper to manufacture and more profitable to sell illegally.
- Another synthetic drug, xylazine, is increasingly being added alongside illicit fentanyl. Xylazine is a strong veterinary tranquilizer. The combined effect of these two drugs on breathing and the heart can be extremely dangerous and further increases the risk of death.

It is important to recognize the **SIGNS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE.**

CALL 911 if you see someone who is:

- Unable to wake up or respond to you.
- Breathing slowly or not at all.
- Making gurgling, choking, or snoring sounds

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the district's Student Services Department at 949-580-3212.

Thank you,

Justin Stanfield
Director, Student Services