

DEA warns most fake pills contain lethal fentanyl

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is alerting the public of a sharp nationwide increase in the lethality of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills.

According to a news release, the DEA lab found that, of the fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills analyzed in 2022, six out of 10 now contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl. This is an increase from DEA's previous announcement in 2021 that four out of ten fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills were found to contain a potentially lethal dose.

"More than half of the fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills being trafficked in communities across the country now contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl," DEA administrator Anne Milgram said in the release.

"This marks a dramatic increase – from four out of ten to six out of 10 – in the number of pills that can kill. These pills are being mass-produced by the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco Cartel in Mexico. Never take a pill that wasn't prescribed directly to you. Never take a pill from a friend. Never take a pill bought on social media. Just one pill is dangerous and one pill can kill."

Last year, the DEA issued a Public Safety Alert on the widespread drug trafficking of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills in American communities. These pills are largely made by two Mexican drug cartels, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco Cartel, to look identical to real prescription medications, including OxyContin, Percocet, and Xanax, and they are often deadly. In 2021, the DEA seized more than 20.4 million fake prescription pills. Earlier this year, the DEA conducted a nationwide operational surge to target the trafficking of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills and, in just over three months, seized 10.2 million fake pills in all 50 states. Through its One Pill Can Kill campaign, the DEA is working to alert the American public of the dangers of fake prescription pills.

Fentanyl remains the deadliest drug threat facing this country, according to the DEA. It is a highly addictive synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Just two milligrams of fentanyl, the small amount that fits on the tip of a pencil, is considered a potentially deadly dose. According to the CDC, 107,622 Americans died of drug poisoning in 2021, with 66 percent of those deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

The Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco Cartel in Mexico, using chemicals largely sourced from China, are primarily responsible for the vast majority of the fentanyl that is being trafficked in communities across the United States, the DEA says.

For more information, go to the Fentanyl Awareness page at dea.gov.

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA on **Monday, July 24, 2023 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Nancy Wheeler, who is seeking a Variance

from Chapter 180-26 (A1) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for the construction of an addition with less than the required side yard at the premises identified as 44 North West Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
07/06, 07/13/2023

RMV Service Center in Chicopee offering road tests

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles recently announced the Service Center located in Chicopee has expanded to offer road tests.

According to a news release, this location will continue to accept dropped off registration bundles for B2B bulk transactions for insurance agents and car dealerships, including new registration and titles, registration transfers and renewals, address changes and cancellations.

The RMV is implementing this customer service change to further support its ongoing efforts to prepare for the Work and Family Mobility Act which took effect on July 1, the release states. The RMV has also increased staffing and will be making translation assistance available for customers using a hotline, informational materials and interpreter services.

"The Registry of Motor Vehicles continues to strategically prepare for the implementation of the Work and Family Mobility Act and the anticipated customer service demand," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie.

"The transitioning of this service center to accommodate additional road tests will help provide customers in Western Massachusetts with increased access, dedicated support

services and additional opportunities to help secure driving credentials."

B2B service

Customers will continue to be able to drop off registration bundles at the Chicopee RMV between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and pick up returned bundles between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

There are no changes to any other B2B locations servicing Western Massachusetts. Bulk registration services will continue to be processed in Easthampton, Greenfield, North Adams, Pittsfield and Springfield.

Road Test Information and Requirements

Customers can schedule required road test appointments online at mass.gov/myRMV. Road test applicants must bring a physical copy of their learner's permit, a printed and completed copy of the Road Test application and be accompanied by a qualified sponsor. A sponsor is a person who is a licensed driver over the age of 21 with at least one year of experience driving. In addition to meeting the application and sponsor qualifications, the applicant must make sure the vehicle brought for testing meets all functional and safety requirements.

Private passenger vehicles used for a Class D road test must meet the following requirements (including vehicles with an ignition interlock device, and vehicles with adaptive equipment for a competency test):

Be in good working condition and be able to pass a safety check.

Have a valid registration and current inspection sticker.

Contain adequate seating accommodations next to the operator for the use of the examiner and have a rear seat for the sponsor.

Be designed to let the examiner make an emergency stop using the parking brake. If not, the vehicle cannot be used for the road test.

Any vehicle with a center console that does not have a parking brake as part of the console cannot be used.

Any vehicle that does not allow the examiner unobstructed access to the parking brake cannot be used.

The RMV has created a webpage to help applicants locate all information related to their road test. The webpage, which is located at mass.gov/guides/road-test-information, includes information on what to expect, videos to help prepare for the road test, links to checklists and applications to increase applicants' chances of passing their exams.

Tips for driving safe with pets this summer

Distracted driving is of most concern in summer, when more people take the opportunity to travel, explore and visit family. Traveling with pets compounds this concern, as unrestrained pets can both cause distractions and make accidents more dangerous.

"Pets can easily take a driver's attention from the road, posing a serious risk not only to the pet but also to the passengers riding in the same vehicle," says Michael Leung, co-founder and lead product designer of Sleepypod, a manufacturer of premium pet carriers and pet restraint systems. "If there is nothing restraining a pet in a hard stop or car accident, the pet can become a projectile and potentially collide with fellow pets or human passengers."

Such a collision could be catastrophic, regardless of a pet's size. A 10-pound dog in a 50-mile-an-hour car crash exerts 500 pounds of force. Meanwhile, an 80-pound dog in a 30-mile-per-hour crash exerts 2,400 pounds of force.

Unrestrained pets may also fall or jump out of open windows or flee the car in fear after a crash, potentially becoming lost, injured, or worse.

A quality, rigorously tested pet restraint can make all the difference in preventing distracted driving and

keeping human and pet passengers safe during an accident. Interestingly, an American Automobile Association survey found that, while more than 80% of drivers admitted that they recognize the dangers of driving with an unrestrained pet, only 16% used pet restraints.

Leung spearheaded Sleepypod's rigorous advanced crash-testing program. He and his research and development team gather real-life accident data through Sleepypod's crash replacement program, which offers customers who have used a pet safety restraint while in an accident replacement pet restraints or discounts on new pet restraints.

Follow these tips for minimizing pet-related distractions and keeping pets safe during accidents:

Pets should always be restrained in a back seat to prevent them from injury

if an airbag is deployed. If the pet cannot restrain your pet with a reputable, tested car restraint, the next safest option is to place the pet in the footwell behind the front seat. Smaller pets are safer when fully contained in a restrained carrier, while larger dogs should ride in a car safety harness that does not connect the pet with an extension tether. Pets should be unable to slide forward far enough to "submarine," or drop off the seat, at any point during a collision.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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