



Public Health Brief

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INTERAGENCY PRESS RELEASE: DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VAPE PENS CONFISCATED AT DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL TEST POSITIVE FOR DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

Minden, NV – The Douglas County School District (DCSD) and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) are issuing a joint statement to inform parents and the community about a recent incident involving the confiscation of vape pens at Douglas High School (DHS). Subsequent testing of these devices revealed the presence of THC (the psychoactive compound in marijuana), MDMA (a synthetic drug also known as ecstasy or molly), fentanyl, and other opioids.

This alarming discovery underscores the serious risks associated with vaping, particularly among youth. The presence of such potent and potentially lethal substances raises significant concerns about the safety and wellbeing of our students.

"The safety of our students is our top priority," said DCSD Superintendent Frankie Alvarado. "We are working closely with the sheriff's office to address this situation and to provide our students with the necessary resources and support to make healthy choices. We urge all parents to have open and honest conversations with their children about the dangers of vaping and substance use."

Douglas County Sheriff Dan Coverley added, "The presence of fentanyl in these vape pens is particularly concerning. Fentanyl is a highly potent opioid that can be fatal in even small amounts. We are committed to working with the school district to investigate the source of these substances and to hold those responsible accountable."



Public Health

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Alpine County Health Department, 75-B Diamond Valley Rd., Markleeville, CA 96120

Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Phone: (530) 694-2281

District 1: Charles Dobson, District 2: Evan Mecak, District 3: Irvin Jim,

District 4: Terry Woodrow, District 5: David Griffith

Key Findings

Several vape pens containing dangerous substances were confiscated from DHS students.

- Laboratory testing confirmed the presence of THC, MDMA, fentanyl, and other opioids.
- An investigation is underway to determine the source of these contaminated devices.

Parent Awareness and Tips

The DCSD and DCSO urge parents to take the following steps to protect their children:

- **Educate Yourself:** Learn about the dangers of vaping and substance use. Resources are available through the [DCSD](#), [DCSO](#), and national organizations like the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).
- **Open Communication:** Have open and honest conversations with your children about the risks of vaping and substance use. Create a safe space for them to ask questions and express concerns.
- **Monitor Your Child's Behavior:** Be aware of changes in your child's behavior, such as mood swings, decreased academic performance, or changes in social habits.
- **Check for Vaping Devices:** Be aware of the appearance of common vaping devices, and check your child's belongings for them. Vaping devices can be easily concealed.
- **Supervise Internet Use:** Monitor your child's online activity and social media accounts, as these can be sources of information about and access to drugs.
- **Know Their Friends:** Be aware of your child's friends and their activities.
- **Secure Medications:** Keep prescription medications in a secure location and out of reach of children.
- **Seek Help:** If you suspect your child is using drugs or alcohol, seek professional help immediately. Contact your child's school counselor, a trusted healthcare provider, or DCSO.

Resources

- DCSD Student Health & Wellness: dcsd.net/student-life/health-wellness
- SafeVoice Anonymous Student Tip Line: dcsd.net/header-nav-poal-safevoice
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office: sheriff.douglascountynv.gov
- SAMHSA National Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov/tobacco/e-cigarettes/index.html



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The DCSD and DCSO are committed to working together to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students. We encourage parents and community members to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to DCSO's non-emergency line at 775-782-5126. Additionally, DCSD encourages families to reach out directly to their school site's counselor if they have any concerns.

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