



# Public Awareness: Colored Fentanyl Pills

## Summary

- Imitation opioid prescription pills containing the synthetic opioid fentanyl are often seized by law enforcement.
- Fentanyl is significantly more potent than prescription opioids and consumption can cause overdose or death.
- Recently, colored fentanyl pills have been seized by law enforcement throughout the country.
- According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, colored fentanyl pills were first reported in February 2022, and have been seized in 26 states this year. (<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/08/30/dea-warns-brightly-colored-fentanyl-used-target-young-americans>)



## Recommendations for Parents

- Adults should check all of their children’s Halloween candy, specifically for:
  - Unusual candy packaging (e.g., homemade packages, such as plastic bags).
  - Packaging that seems to have been tampered with or opened.
  - Packaging that contains contents that are not candy.
- Parents should warn children about the dangers posed by illicit drugs.
- If you believe you are in possession of anything that might be narcotics, **immediately notify your local law enforcement agency**. Do **not** touch the suspected narcotics.
- Understand the signs and symptoms of an overdose:
  - Slow, shallow breathing or not breathing.
  - Slow heartbeat or no heartbeat.
  - Not waking up or not responding to voice or touch.
  - Limp body.
  - Choking or gurgling sounds, vomiting.
  - Pale, clammy skin; blue or gray lips and fingertips.
  - Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils.”

**Due to the appearance of colored fentanyl pills, they can be mistaken for candy. However, there are no indications that fentanyl pills are being marketed towards children or that anyone would knowingly give these to children.**

## Emergency/Immediate Assistance

Immediate Medical Care | 911  
 NJ Addiction Services Hotline | 844-276-2777  
 HIV Testing/Clean Needles | 800-624-2377  
 ReachNJ | 844-732-2465  
 NJ Hope Line (Suicide Prevention) | 855-654-6735

NJ Connect | 855-652-3737  
 The Peer Recovery Warmline | 877-292-5588  
 NJ Mental Health Care | 866-202-4357, TTY 877-294-4356  
 Veterans Hotline | 866-838-7654  
 NJ 2nd Floor | CALL OR TEXT 888-222-2228