

Steve Sisolak
Governor



Richard Whitley, MS
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Ross Armstrong
Administrator

Date:

To: Medical Professionals in Nevada

From: Nevada Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children

Re: 2021 Quarter 2 Recommendation

The Nevada Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children (Executive Committee) meets quarterly to review the reports and recommendations of the regional multidisciplinary child death review teams and respond to these recommendations. This can include, but is not limited to, making recommendations for improvements to laws, policies, and practices to prevent the deaths of children under eighteen (18) in Nevada.

In Quarter 2 of 2021, the Washoe County Child Death Review Team submitted the following recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- **Hospitals and drug testing facilities begin testing for fentanyl as part of their standard drug testing panels**

After discussing the recommendation, researching the current educational material, and receiving feedback from subject matter experts, the Executive Committee would like to encourage all hospitals within the state to begin testing for fentanyl as part of the standard drug testing panels. As fentanyl is becoming more prevalent in our state, we have seen an increase in the number of children who have suffered a near-fatal or fatal event due to accidental ingestion of this substance. There is a significant delay in determining fentanyl ingestion as a cause of unresponsiveness in children which leads to incorrect medical treatment, inaccurate assessments, and/or ongoing safety issues. Furthermore, an opportunity to provide assistance and/or resources to the individual or family may be lost as a result. By having immediate drug test results, medical providers can make more informed treatment plans and other community providers can make more informed safety decisions and accurate assessments for children and families.

In addition, the Executive Committee would like to encourage all hospitals and doctors to become familiar with Fentanyl educational materials so that doctors can have a conversation about the dangers of fentanyl use with their clients. Educational material can be found by visiting the following links:

- [Training/Education - Nevada State Opioid Response \(nvopioidresponse.org\)](https://nvopioidresponse.org/training-education)
- [Resources - Nevada State Opioid Response \(nvopioidresponse.org\)](https://nvopioidresponse.org/resources)
- [THE FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/opioid/factsheets/factsheet-fentanyl.html)
- [Drug Fact Sheet: Fentanyl \(dea.gov\)](https://www.dea.gov/drug-fact-sheet/fentanyl)
- [heroin-fentanyl-other-opioids-ebook-partnership-for-drug-free-kids.pdf \(nvopioidresponse.org\)](https://nvopioidresponse.org/heroin-fentanyl-other-opioids-ebook-partnership-for-drug-free-kids.pdf)

The Executive Committee values your commitment in preventing child deaths in the State of Nevada. Please feel free to reach out with any questions to Jessica Freeman, jfreeman@dcfs.nv.gov, 702-486-7711.

Respectfully,

The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children