

WHEREAS; fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is 50 times stronger than heroin and 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine; and

WHEREAS; because of its potency and low manufacturing cost, illicit drugs of all kinds now contain illegally produced fentanyl, including heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine, and it continues to be used at soaring rates; and

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, more than 800 Wisconsinites died, and 1,590 were hospitalized from an opioid-related overdose in 2024 alone; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin continues to support and advance several policies to combat substance use and overdose deaths in Wisconsin, including passing legislation to decriminalize fentanyl testing strips, supporting the accessible placement of the emergency narcotic overdose reversal drug, naloxone, investing in increased supports for those struggling with mental health and substance use challenges, and making deliberate use of the funds received through the national settlement agreement with major pharmaceutical suppliers; and

WHEREAS; fentanyl testing strips are affordable, safe, and efficient, often working in less than five minutes, and in conjunction with other harm reduction techniques, can be a valuable intervention to prevent an accidental overdose; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all those who have been affected by fentanyl use in spreading awareness of the harm that fentanyl can cause and the ways to combat this drug's prevalence in communities, and reminds all Wisconsinites that anyone can save a life by educating themselves on the signs of an overdose, learning how to administer naloxone, and calling 911;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 29 2026 as

NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 21st day of April 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State