

WHEREAS; fentanyl is a man-made or synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine; and

WHEREAS; because of its strength and low production cost, illegally manufactured fentanyl is being found in illicit drugs of all kinds, including heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine, and is being used at soaring rates; and

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, more than 800 Wisconsinites died from an opioid-related overdose in 2024 alone, and a large percentage of these deaths were connected to a synthetic or manufactured opioid, like fentanyl; and

WHEREAS; while expanding access to fentanyl test strips and the emergency narcotic overdose reversal drug, naloxone, is key to reducing fentanyl use and overdose, the stigma that surrounds drug use, addiction, and overdose often makes it difficult for communities to implement these measures and effectively address the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS; families across Wisconsin have experienced immeasurable grief from the sudden and preventable loss of loved ones due to fentanyl poisoning, and survivors are courageously stepping forward to educate the public, reduce stigma, and advocate for change; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin continues to support and advance measures to address substance use and overdose deaths in Wisconsin, including passing legislation to decriminalize fentanyl testing strips, investing in increased community-level support for people who have been grappling with mental health and substance use challenges, and making strategic use of funds received as part of a national settlement agreement with major pharmaceutical distributors; 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 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 August 21 2026 as

**NATIONAL FENTANYL PREVENTION AND
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 23rd day of July 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State