



PHD Media
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NEWS RELEASE

Health District and Idaho State Police Host Cookies with a Cop Event Panhandle Health District – June 7, 2022

Enjoy delicious cookies while interacting with local officers and partners about drug trends and prevention initiatives being implemented in our community at Cookies with a Cop. On Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 5:30pm in the KROC Center, Panhandle Health District (PHD) and Idaho State Police (ISP) will be hosting a drug education and prevention initiatives event that is open to the community. Special presentations by ISP Sergeant Stennett, ISP Captain John Kempf, ILED (Idaho Law Enforcement Diversion) panel, and local community resources.

“Drug related overdoses can affect every demographic of our population, so it is more important than ever to raise awareness on this important topic,” said Kelsey Orlando, substance use disorder programs manager at PHD. “Panhandle Health District views substance use as a top priority health concern. We have internal and community partner team efforts ongoing in prevention outreach strategies, initiatives for harm reduction and recovery services, and aim to get people the help they need while promoting positive impacts throughout our five county jurisdiction.”

PHD’s Overdose Response Team issued an overdose spike alert on Friday, June 3, due to three overdoses occurring in a 24-hour period in Kootenai county that were linked to illicit Fentanyl. These counterfeit pills, often called “Mexies,” “Mexican Oxys,” or “M30s,” are typically light blue in color, stamped with a “M” on one side and a “30” on the other to resemble pharmaceutical oxycodone. Fentanyl is an extremely strong opioid that can be fatal in small doses. Although Fentanyl can be prescribed for certain severe and terminal conditions, it is also sold through illicit channels, often laced into other substances not limited to heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, cannabis, and other manufactured pills.

PHD and ISP are asking community members to take the following steps:

Carry naloxone, naloxone is free by calling North Idaho Aids Coalition (NIAC) 208-665-1448 or by visiting www.notscarytocarry.org.

If you think someone is experiencing an overdose, call 9-1-1 immediately and administer naloxone.

Do not use substances alone and use slowly.

Check in with friends and family.

PHD is also reminding people about Idaho's Good Samaritan Law which protects the person overdosing and the bystander from being charged or prosecuted if they act in good faith while seeking medical assistance for a person experiencing a drug related overdose.

For more information on treatment and recovery visit NorthIdahoConnections.org

Teens, parents, and professionals are encouraged to attend Cookies with a Cop.

Registration available via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cookies-with-a-cop-tickets-329951001327>

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Panhandle Health District provides over 40 different public health programs to families, individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.