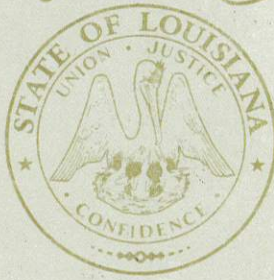


Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Fentanyl Awareness Day is a day of education to raise public awareness that people are dying at alarming rates due to illicitly manufactured drugs mixed with fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, to increase potency, and pressed into pills made to look like legitimate pharmaceutical drugs; and
- WHEREAS,** the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths are fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, and over 150 people die every day from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl; and
- WHEREAS,** fentanyl is odorless, tasteless, cheap and extremely potent, 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2021, 72 percent of opioid-involved overdose deaths in the United States involved illicitly manufactured fentanyl; and
- WHEREAS,** it is becoming more common for individuals to use drugs without knowing it contains fentanyl and overdosing as a result; and
- WHEREAS,** Act 137 was signed into law in June 2022 to exclude fentanyl test strips or any test equipment or devices solely used or intended for the user to determine whether a substance contains fentanyl from the definition of drug paraphernalia, providing another resource to focus on overdose prevention; and
- WHEREAS,** recovery from alcohol and drug use occurs every day through a variety of recovery support resources and treatment programs; and
- WHEREAS,** to raise awareness and prevent overdose caused by fentanyl, the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health and Office of Public Health, and many partners have come together to invite all residents of the State of Louisiana to participate in Fentanyl Awareness Day.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, **John Bel Edwards**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 9, 2023 as

FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY
in the State of Louisiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 9th day of May A. D., 2023.

John Bel Edwards
Governor

