

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 11th, 2024

Contact: Amy Dillon, Public Information Officer, [adillon@phd5.id.gov](mailto:adillon@phd5.id.gov)

## **SCPHD Presents Upcoming Fentanyl Awareness Informational Event on September 19th**

**SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO** – In 2023 alone, 386 Idahoans lost their lives to drug overdoses. 197 of these deaths can be directly contributed to fentanyl, according to a recent report from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW). Idaho has continuously set an annual record for overdoses for the past 6 years.

**Join experts to witness an award-winning documentary on the dangers of fentanyl. A presentation and discussion will follow the film.**

Fentanyl is an extremely potent drug that is up to 100 times stronger than morphine. It can be prescribed by physicians, but Idaho is seeing a growing rate of illegal fentanyl being transported in the state. Often, fentanyl is mixed with other illegal substances or laced in fake pills.

On Thursday, September 19th, South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) in partnership with the Idaho Department of Education, Idaho State Police, and the Idaho Fentanyl Education Project will present on this threat to our community.

### **Fentanyl Awareness Townhall | Film Screening and Information Session**

**Thursday, September 19th | 6:30 p.m.**

**Little Theatre | King Fine Arts Center**

**2100 Parke Ave.**

**Burley, ID 83318**

The event will start with a screening of “Dead on Arrival”, a short documentary by filmmaker Dominic Tierno. The film centers on the dangers of fentanyl, especially for young people. There will be a presentation to follow with time for questions. Local resources for drug prevention and recovery will also be available.

“By understanding the dangers of fentanyl and fake pills we can be better prepared to protect our loved ones and community,” said Eli Thompson, SCPHD Health Education Specialist. “The latest data from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) states that 70% of pills seized by the DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl. Now, more than ever, we need to educate ourselves on ways to protect the ones we care about.”

Learn more about opioids and strategies to save lives: [phd5.idaho.gov/opioid-misuse-prevention](https://phd5.idaho.gov/opioid-misuse-prevention)

###