



## **CLIFTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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900 Clifton Avenue  
Clifton, NJ 07013

# **CLIFTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND CLIFTON AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE (CASA) URGES COMMUNITY TO BE CAUTIOUS THIS HALLOWEEN**

### **For Immediate Release**

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The Clifton Health Department and Clifton Against Substance Abuse (CASA) are issuing a Public Service Announcement alerting parents about the dangers of rainbow fentanyl this Halloween, and reminding parents to take steps to keep themselves and their families safe.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more powerful than heroin and 100 times more powerful than morphine. Just two milligrams of fentanyl, which is equal to 10-15 grains of table salt, is considered a deadly dose. Fentanyl remains the deadliest drug threat facing this country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 107,622 Americans died of drug overdoses in 2021, with 66 percent of those deaths related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

In August 2022, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued an alert about the alarming trend of colorful fentanyl and fentanyl pills in several states. According to the DEA, this trend appears to be a new method used by drug cartels to sell highly addictive and potentially deadly fentanyl that resembles candy to children and young people.

Brightly-colored fentanyl is being seized in other states in multiple forms, including pills, powder, and blocks that resembles sidewalk chalk. Every color, shape, and size of fentanyl should be considered extremely dangerous.

This Halloween, parents are urged to take the following actions to protect their children and families:

- Inform kids not to accept any treats that are not commercially wrapped
- Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, like discoloration, pinholes, or tears in wrappers
- Discard any candy that appears to be suspiciously packaged or unpackaged

The following are additional Halloween safety tips to consider:

- Make sure small children are accompanied by an adult, or an older, responsible child
- Ensure older children trick or treat in groups, and have them check in with parents periodically
- Never enter someone's home or car for a treat
- Avoid having children wear their names outwardly on clothing or jewelry, which may allow a stranger to call them by name and appear to know them
- Children should be cautioned to avoid strangers, as well as poorly-lit areas
- Be aware of obstacles on lawns, steps and porches, especially candle lit jack-o-lanterns that may be brushed by a child's costume
- Ensure children have a flashlight on hand and are wearing reflecting or bright colored clothing, especially at night

Finally, remember that pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween. Extra care should be taken on streets and at crossings, especially at dusk and after dark. If driving, drive slowly in residential neighborhoods and be mindful of trick-or-treaters at intersections, medians, curbs, and in between parked cars. Do not assume the right of way as drivers may have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters, especially those not wearing reflecting clothing.

The Clifton Health Department and CASA wish Clifton and Little Falls residents a very happy and healthy Halloween!

*The Clifton Health Department is a contractual health agency serving the Township of Little Falls.*  
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