



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT (2023)

Parental Notification, Law Enforcement Collaboration, and Student Education to Prevent Student Overdoses

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I hereby issue this Executive Order directing the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Virginia Department of Education to take immediate action regarding overdoses in Virginia's public schools.

Importance of Initiative

My Administration has been aggressively focused on fighting the fentanyl epidemic and reversing the disturbing trend of increasing overdoses of Virginians, especially among our youth, with our *Right Help, Right Now* initiative, *One Pill Can Kill* campaign, and *Executive Order 26 (2023) Crushing the Fentanyl Epidemic: Strengthening Virginia's Interdiction and Enforcement Response to the Fentanyl Crisis*.

In October 2023, there were nine documented cases of opioid-related drug overdoses involving students at Loudoun County Public Schools.¹ At least four of these incidents took place on school premises, three required the administration of naloxone, and in at least two instances, school personnel were required to perform life-saving CPR. These incidents reflect a broader issue, with more than 19 juvenile opioid overdoses in Loudoun County this year.

Transparency and community awareness are essential to ensuring the safety and well-being of Virginia's children. The Loudoun County Public School division reportedly waited more than 20 days to inform parents despite clear evidence of numerous incidents of overdose among the students.

Failure to promptly notify parents endangers the health and welfare of their children and limits parents' fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of their children.

¹ Minock, Nick. *WJLA*. "9 recent opioid-related overdoses connected to 1 Loudoun County high school, officials say." <https://wjla.com/news/local/loudoun-county-eight-opioid-overdose-park-view-high-school-connected-narcotics-cpr-oxy-codone-m30-juveniles-investigate-deadly-serious-similarities-details-information-lethal>

Directive

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth, and pursuant to Article V of the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth including *Code of Virginia* § 1-240.1, I hereby order the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Education to:

1. Issue guidance requiring the notification of all parents within a school division through regular communication channels within 24 hours of a school-connected student overdose, while always ensuring protection of student privacy.
2. Issue guidance outlining close collaboration between local school divisions and state law enforcement to prevent student overdoses.
3. Provide information to local school divisions and parents about education programs for students to develop decision-making skills and prevent violations of Virginia law, including state and federal efforts such as the *One Pill Can Kill* campaign led by the First Lady of Virginia and the Attorney General and the Attorney General's *Virginia Rules* program.

Effective Date

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in force and effect unless amended or rescinded by a future executive order or directive. Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 1st day of November, 2023.




Glenn Youngkin, Governor

Attest:


Kelly Gee, Secretary of the Commonwealth