



# State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

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Office of Emergency Services

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Michael A. Ponticiello, Director

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## **County Leaders Provide Update on Deadly Fentanyl Emergency**

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Broome County leaders provided an update Wednesday on the deadly fentanyl State of Emergency.

Since the State of Emergency was declared on March 27, 2019 by Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, District Attorney Steve Cornwell's office has reported two more fatal drug overdoses, one in Binghamton and one in the Town of Union. Individuals handling fentanyl, including first responders, may have been exposed.

The District Attorney's Office has taken steps to:

- Investigate all overdose scenes as potential crimes scenes, and assist local law enforcement agencies;
- Standardize and enhance reporting of drug overdoses to help target the source of the supply by gathering and sharing intelligence with local and national agencies, including New York City;
- Modify investigative and prosecution strategies to fentanyl sales as highest priority; and
- Protect public from drugged drivers through training opportunities to police agencies for enhanced drugged driver identification.

Additionally, the Broome County Health Department has received more than 200 Narcan kits from OASAS and distributed them to partner agencies throughout the county. Community partners have trained hundreds of community residents.

Narcan trainings have been held at the Intermodal bus station on Chenango Street and the Broome County Public Library, as well as at the community agencies. Many community groups including Broome County Government Departments, local hospitals, schools, churches and businesses have reached out to have groups trained.

The Health Department also partnered with the United Way of Broome County to develop a public service announcement (PSA) to be aired on all local TV stations and local radio stations informing residents to call 211 for resources and treatment options. The Broome Opioid Awareness Council has been meeting to coordinate effort across all sectors of the community. The county is also continuing to update its website and Facebook pages with new information and harm reduction messaging.

The Office of Emergency Services continues to support the District Attorney's Office and Health Department during this incident. OES is providing Narcan kits and training to any county department that is interested. OES is also evaluating placing Narcan kits with AED's located in county buildings