



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Executive's Office

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive

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Broome County Executive Garnar Declares State of Emergency *Deadly Fentanyl Emergency*

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Broome County Executive Jason Garnar declared a state of emergency Wednesday afternoon, as the county is facing a deadly fentanyl emergency. According to District Attorney Steve Cornwell there have been 10 overdose deaths just in March of 2019.

Compared to three each in January, and February, the number of deaths is increasing at an alarming rate. Six of those 10 deaths were just in the past 10 days. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is used for severe pain and is up to 100 times more potent than morphine.

“We are in the middle of a deadly fentanyl emergency that is wiping out all of the good work we have done in the last few years to fight the heroin epidemic and save lives,” Garnar said. “This action will allow me to more quickly and effectively direct all county departments to respond to this crisis.”

As part of the state of emergency an executive order has been signed to speed up the process of getting toxicology reports to the District Attorney's office, so that Cornwell can best work to track specifically what types of drugs are causing the deaths.

“We have two goals, to get this deadly fentanyl out of our community, and above all to save lives,” Garnar said. “This is something that cannot wait, and everyone needs to work together.”

The Broome County Health Department has convened an emergency Broome Opioid Awareness Council (BOAC) meeting to coordinate new Narcan trainings in the county.

During this emergency BOAC wants to remind community members:

- They can visit their local pharmacy and use the Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program (N-CAP). No prior prescription from a medical provider is needed. Call your pharmacy ahead to ensure availability.
- Walk in hours are available at the following locations for a Narcan kit and education. Please contact the agencies for hours and availability.
 - Addiction Center of Broome County (607) 723-7308
 - Helio Health (607) 296-3072
 - Southern Tier AIDS Program (607) 798-1706
 - Truth Pharm (607) 348-3302
- Encourage those with substance use disorders to not use alone, have a Narcan kit available, and if you are on the site of an overdose call 911.

For a full list of treatment resources click [here](#).