



COMMUNITY SAFETY BULLETIN

Bulletin Issued: Friday, Sept. 25, 2026

The Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH) is urging Mississippians to be aware of the serious and potentially unpredictable risks associated with counterfeit pills, illicitly manufactured drugs and other psychoactive products obtained from unregulated or unverifiable sources.

The warning comes as the drug environment continues to change, with counterfeit pills, emerging substances and products sold in a variety of forms and through a growing number of channels, MSDH said in a news release issued Sept. 23.

The Police Department at Mississippi University for Women wants students to understand the serious risks associated with counterfeit pills, illicitly manufactured drugs and other psychoactive products.

Counterfeit pills and illicitly manufactured drugs can be made to look like legitimate prescription medications or other familiar products. However, there is no reliable way to know what a counterfeit or illegally manufactured product actually contains, how much of a substance is present, or whether it has been contaminated during production.

Products obtained through social media, friends or acquaintances, unauthorized online sellers, street dealers, or other unregulated sources may contain unexpected and potentially dangerous substances. In some cases, a pill that appears to be a prescription medication may contain a potent synthetic opioid or other substance capable of causing severe injury, overdose, or death.

Know the Risks

Using medications or psychoactive products that were not prescribed or obtained through a legitimate, regulated source can result in:

- Unintentional overdose
- Severe or unpredictable reactions
- Loss of consciousness or respiratory failure
- Seizures or other medical emergencies
- Dangerous interactions with alcohol or other medications
- Permanent injury or death

The appearance, color, markings, packaging, or claims made by a seller do not guarantee that a product is authentic or safe. Even products marketed as "research chemicals," "supplements," "nootropics," or other alternative or recreational products may contain substances that are different from what is advertised or may be contaminated.

Protect Yourself

The safest approach is to avoid taking any medication or psychoactive product that was not prescribed to you and was not obtained from a legitimate pharmacy or other regulated source.

Do not assume that a pill is safe because someone you know has taken it without experiencing a problem. The contents and concentration of illicitly manufactured products can vary from one pill or batch to another.

If you are taking prescription medication, keep it secured and do not share it with others. Taking someone else's prescription medication can be dangerous, even when the medication appears identical to your own.

If You Think Someone Is Overdosing

Call 911 immediately. Do not wait to see if the person improves.

If the person is unconscious, having difficulty breathing, experiencing a seizure, or cannot be awakened, treat the situation as a medical emergency. If naloxone (Narcan) is available and an opioid overdose is suspected, administer it according to the product instructions while emergency medical assistance is being contacted.

When calling 911, provide responders with as much information as possible about what the person may have taken. Do not delay calling for help because you are uncertain about what substance was involved.

Your safety and well-being are more important than concerns about getting someone in trouble.

If you have questions about drug safety, counterfeit medications, or available campus resources, please contact The W Police Department at (662) 241-7777 or seek assistance from a medical professional or campus health services.

When it comes to counterfeit and unregulated drugs, you cannot reliably determine what is in a product simply by looking at it. When in doubt, don't take it.

MDSH News Release: [Beware of Counterfeit and Unregulated Drugs](#)