



MEDIA AVAILABILITY: HFSC finds first fentanyl-laced XTC tablets

March 30, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Peter Stout, the Houston Forensic Science Center's CEO and president, Erik Smith, associate special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Houston Division, Houston Police Department Assistant Chief James Jones, Houston's Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Persse and James Miller, HFSC's seized drugs manager, will share findings of the first fentanyl identification in what was believed to be XTC. The two will discuss the dangers of this finding for the community, especially teenagers, as well as the 87 percent increase in fentanyl cases HFSC saw in 2020.

WHEN: 10 a.m., April 1, 2021

WHERE: 500 Jefferson St., C Level

Houston, Texas 77002

Due to pandemic restrictions, all media will be required to have their temperature taken before entering the facility and wear masks at all times. Following the news conference, one TV camera and one still photographer will be permitted to enter the laboratory following as pool media.

HFSC is a local government corporation that provides forensic services to the City of Houston and other local agencies. HFSC is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor of Houston and confirmed by the Houston City Council. Its management structure is designed to be responsive to a 2009 recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences that called for crime laboratories to be independent of law enforcement and prosecutorial branches of government.

HFSC operates in seven forensic disciplines.

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