



# KANKAKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2390 West Station Street  
Kankakee, Illinois 60901  
phone 815-802-9400  
tty 815-802-9312  
fax 815-802-9391

---

Date: 4/11/2018

Contact: John Bevis, 815.802.9394

For Immediate Release

Subject: Synthetic Cannabinoid Warning

---

## Synthetic Cannabinoid Warning

The Kankakee County Health Department is urging people not to use synthetic cannabinoids, often called Spice, K2, or fake weed. To date, there have been 118 cases of people in Illinois, including two in Kankakee County, that have experienced severe bleeding, such as coughing up blood, blood in the urine, severe bloody nose, and/or bleeding gums, after using synthetic cannabinoids. Three of these cases have resulted in death and several of these cases have tested positive for brodifacoum, a lethal anticoagulant often used as a rodenticide, or rat poison.

The number of cases has been consistently increasing so we urge anyone who has purchased synthetic cannabinoids in the past two months **NOT TO USE THEM**

Synthetic cannabinoids are human-made, mind-altering chemicals that are sprayed on to dried plant material. They can be smoked or sold as liquids to be vaporized in e-cigarettes and other devices. These chemicals are called cannabinoids because they are similar to chemicals found in the marijuana plant. The health effects from using synthetic cannabinoids can be unpredictable, harmful, and deadly.

Public health officials continue to investigate to try to identify any common brand and determine where they were obtained. Synthetic cannabinoids are found across Illinois and the U.S. in convenience stores, gas stations, drug paraphernalia shops, novelty stores, and online.

**If you have used any of these products, and start experiencing severe, unexplained bleeding or bruising, please have someone take you to the hospital immediately or call 911. Do not walk or drive yourself.** Tell your health care providers about the possible link between your symptoms and synthetic cannabinoid use.

For more information check the Illinois Department of Public Health Website at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov>. Updates will be posted to this web page including the number of cases and counties of residence at 1:30 p.m. every day for the duration of this outbreak.

###