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**Peoria City/County
Health Department**

Media Release

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From: Peoria City/County Health Department
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For Immediate Release

Health Department Issues Warning About Synthetic Cannabinoids

The Peoria City/County Health Department is warning people about the dangers of synthetic cannabinoids, often called fake weed, K2, and spice, after seeing multiple cases in Peoria of people suffering from severe bleeding after using synthetic cannabinoids.

“Synthetic cannabinoids are not a safe or legal alternative to marijuana and can cause severe illness,” said Monica Hendrickson, Administrator at Peoria City/County Health Department. “The recent cases in Peoria of severe bleeding are evidence of the harm synthetic cannabinoids can cause.”

Synthetic cannabinoids are not one drug, but hundreds of different chemicals manufactured and sold. These chemicals are called cannabinoids because they act on the same brain cell receptors as the main active ingredient in marijuana. Synthetic cannabinoid products are unsafe. It is difficult to know what is in them or what a reaction to them will be. The health effects from using synthetic cannabinoids can be unpredictable and harmful—even life threatening.

Anyone who has a serious reaction to synthetic cannabinoids should call 911 or have someone take them to the emergency department immediately.

For updates on this topic and information on additional important public health issues, visit the Peoria City/County Health Department website at www.pcchd.org.

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The Peoria City/County Health Department continues efforts to improve community health in Peoria County with the overarching goal
“to increase the number of people who are healthy at every stage of life.”