



Terrance C. Cole Sworn in as DEA Administrator

[Terrance C. "Terry" Cole](#) was sworn in as DEA Administrator on July 23, 2025. Administrator Cole spent more than 31 years in law enforcement, 22 of which were at DEA fighting the drug cartels and transnational criminal organizations.

He previously served as Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. [Read more](#) about his appointment.

West Virginia Veterinarian to Pay Nearly \$1M in Civil Penalties

A veterinarian in Charleston, WV, was unable to account for nearly 10,000 dosage units of oxycodone HCL, hydrocodone/acetaminophen, and other controlled substances. The veterinarian ordered thousands of doses of opioids and other drugs, failed to track and keep these drugs secured, and allegedly fabricated records. The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia secured a \$956,709 default judgment. [Read more](#).



New Narcotic Treatment Programs Video Series Released



DEA recognizes the need to ensure that medications for opioid use disorder (OUD) are readily and safely available to those who need them, especially in rural areas.

Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTPs) provide medication assisted treatment, such as methadone and buprenorphine, to those suffering from opioid use disorder.

A new [four-part video series](#) explores the expansion of OUD treatment and walks applicants through the process to become an NTP.

DEA Orders Nitazenes to be Emergency Controlled to Protect the Public

Drug dealers in the United States continue to adulterate fentanyl with various synthetic opioids, such as nitazenes. Nitazenes are synthetic opioids that have been linked to numerous overdose deaths and can be more potent than fentanyl.

Due to this threat, the DEA temporarily ordered two nitazenes substances be emergency controlled and placed in schedule I to protect the public.

On August 15, 2025, based on the imminent hazard to public safety, DEA published a temporary, emergency scheduling order to place these benzimidazole-opioids in schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act. Any person who handles these substances faces administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions.



DEA Receives Food and Drug Administration Recommendation to Regulate Powerful Chemical Compound

The chemical compound 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), is more potent than morphine and abused for its ability to produce opioid-like effects. It is often advertised as an alternative to controlled substances and sold at gas stations and vape shops.

The identity, purity levels, and quantity of these substances are uncertain and inconsistent, and pose significant adverse health risks to users.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services submitted to DEA a scientific and medical evaluation, and recommended schedule I control of certain 7-OH products under the Controlled Substances Act.

[Schedule I](#) drugs, substances, or chemicals have a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use in the United States. Learn more about the HHS [recommendation](#).



National Prescription Fall Take Back Day Announced



On October 25, 2025, the DEA and its federal partners will team up for the 29th bi-annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to remove unused, unwanted medications from homes and medicine cabinets to prevent drug misuse before it starts.

Check the Take Back Day [website](#) for more information as it becomes available.

DEA Releases Guidance on Talking to Kids about Drugs

As students head back to the classroom, it is a great time to talk to kids about the dangers of drug misuse. Parents can have a big impact by talking to their kids about drugs, but not all age groups respond in the same way. New guidance walks parents through having conversations with kids from preschool to college age.



Elementary school students may respond to conversations about “good drugs” versus “bad drugs.” It is more beneficial for parents of high school students to know what drugs are trending and ask their teenagers about drug issues at school, in friends’ homes, and in social settings. It is also crucial to emphasize the dangers of buying pills or medication through social media platforms.

For more information, see [Tips for Talking to Youth](#).

Diversion Control Division Enforcement

DEA’s Diversion Control Division strives to prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and listed chemicals from legitimate sources.

When the safety and health of the American people is in jeopardy, DEA takes action against those who violate the law.



Stamford Nurse Who Stole and Tampered with Hydromorphone and Fentanyl Vials Sentenced to Prison

August 12, 2025

Worcester Psychiatrist Sentenced for Unlawful Distribution of Controlled Substances

August 12, 2025

APRN and Medical Practice to Pay Over \$600k and Cease Connecticut Medicaid Participation to Settle False Claims Act Allegations

August 12, 2025

Nurse Sentenced to 16 Months in Federal Prison for Tampering with and Stealing Lorazepam Vials

August 12, 2025

Putnam County Veterinarian Ordered to Pay \$956,709 in Civil Penalties

August 7, 2025

Harrison County Doctor Sentenced for Unlawful Distribution of Controlled Substances

July 31, 2025



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