

**EMERGENCY ORDER 2012-01  
TO PREVENT IMMINENT DANGER TO HEALTH OR LIVES**

**ISSUED BY ANNETTE MERCATANTE M.D., MPH, HEALTH OFFICER  
ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
PURSUANT TO MCL 333.2451**


THIS EMERGENCY ORDER TO PREVENT IMMINENT DANGER TO HEALTH OR LIVES is issued pursuant to section 333.2451 of the Public Health Code of the State of Michigan, and is based on the following:

1. A determination has been made that an imminent danger to the health or lives of individuals exists in St. Clair County.
2. Annette Mercatante, M.D., MPH, Local Health Officer for St. Clair County Health Department, is required under section 2451 of the Public Health Code of Michigan to immediately inform individuals affected by the imminent danger.
3. The Local Health Officer directs that this Order be immediately delivered to all persons in St. Clair County by posting it at the St. Clair County website, at the County Courthouse and Administration Building, and by disseminating it to print and broadcast media.
4. This Order covers synthetic cannabinoids and all substances commonly known as "synthetic marijuana."
  - a. Synthetic marijuana is reported to be offered for sale in St. Clair County.
  - b. The emergency departments at Hospitals located in St. Clair County have reported seeing increasing numbers of persons suffering serious health effects from use of synthetic marijuana.
  - c. The Drug Enforcement Administration has placed synthetic cannabinoids into the Schedule I category of drugs. Schedule I drugs are those which have the following characteristics:
    - i. The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse.
    - ii. The drug or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.
    - iii. There is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.
  - d. Synthetic cannabinoids are known by the following chemical names
    - i. 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole
    - ii. 1-butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole
    - iii. 1-[2-(4-morpholinyl) ethyl]-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole
    - iv. 5-(1,1-dimethylheptyl)-2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol
    - v. 5-(1,1-dimethyloctyl)-2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol
  - e. The precursors of the chemicals in 4.e are also included in Schedule I of the DEA .
  - f. These substances are sold under the following common names and under other common names not shown on this list:

- i. K-2, Bliss, Black Mamba, Bombay Blue, Fake Weed, Genie, Spice, Zohai
  - g. Effects on mind
    - i. Psychological effects are similar to those of marijuana and include paranoia, panic attacks, and giddiness.
  - h. Effects on body
    - i. Physiological effects of synthetic marijuana include increased heart rate and increase of blood pressure. It appears to be stored in the body for long periods of time, and therefore the long-term effects on humans are not fully known.
- 5. This Order also covers chemicals in the cathinone family of stimulants and all substances commonly known as "Bath Salts."
  - a. Cathinones are known by the following chemical names:
    - i. Mephedrone
    - ii. MDPV (3-4 methylenedioxypropylone)
    - iii. Methylone
  - b. These substances are sold under the following common names and under other common names not shown on this list:
    - i. Bliss, Blue Silk, Cloud Nine, Drone, Energy-1, Ivory Wave, Lunar Wave, Meow Meow, Ocean Burst, Pure Ivory, Purple Wave, Red Dove, Snow Leopard, Stardust, Vanilla Sky, White Dove, White Knight, White Lightning
  - c. The Drug Enforcement Administration has placed the chemicals constituting bath salts into the Schedule I category of drugs.
  - d. Effects on mind
    - i. People who abuse these substances have reported agitation, insomnia, irritability, dizziness, depression, paranoia, delusions, suicidal thoughts, seizures, and panic attacks. Users have also reported effects including impaired perception of reality, reduced motor control, and decreased ability to think clearly.
  - e. Effects on body
    - i. Cathinone derivatives act as central nervous system stimulants causing rapid heart rate (which may lead to heart attacks and strokes), chest pains, nosebleeds, sweating, nausea, and vomiting.
- 6. Based on the foregoing findings, the Health Officer for St. Clair County Health Department has determined that an Imminent Danger exists to the health or lives of individuals in St. Clair County.
- 7. All persons in St. Clair County are hereby ordered to immediately cease selling, trading, giving, bartering, serving, providing or otherwise making available any product or substance containing or reasonably believed to contain synthetic marijuana or cathinones, until such time as the imminent danger has been removed by further order. For the purpose of this order, "persons" are as defined in MCL 333.1106(2), and includes all individuals, partnerships, cooperatives, associations, private corporations, personal representatives, receivers, trustees, assignees, and other legal entities.

8. It is further ordered that the person named above shall not restock any product or substance containing or reasonably believed to contain synthetic marijuana or cathinones under the names listed above or products of similar composition that produce the same type of effects, now or in the future until said imminent danger has been lifted.
9. This Order will remain in effect until it is determined by the Health Officer of the St. Clair County Health Department that the threat to the Public's Health and lives is no longer present.
10. Pursuant to Section 2443 of the Public Health Code, Public Act 368 of 1978, being MCL 333.2443, a person who violates this Order is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or a fine of not more than \$200.00 or both.
11. Failure to promptly comply with this Order issued under section 2451 of the Michigan Public Health Code authorizes the local health department to petition a Circuit or District Court having jurisdiction to restrain a condition or practice which the local Health Officer determines causes imminent danger or requires action to avoid, correct or remove the imminent danger.
12. To assure compliance with laws enforced by a local health department, the local health department has the power and authority under Sections 2433 and 2446 of the Public Health Code, Public Act 368 of 1978 being MCL 333.2433 and 333.2446, to inspect, investigate, or authorize an inspection or investigation to be made of, any matter, thing, premise, place, person, record, vehicle, incident, or event.

Dated: 6-6-12

  
Annette Mercatante, M.D., MPH,  
Health Officer  
St. Clair County Health Department