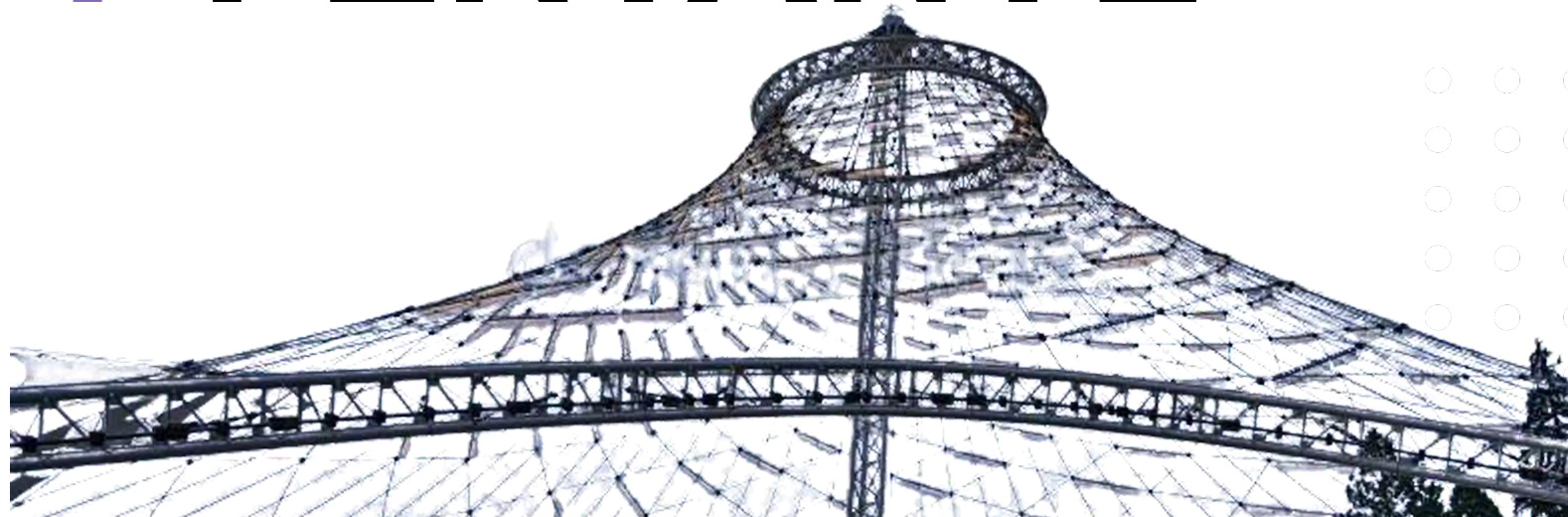




**Gabriel's
Challenge**

OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSE AGAINST FENTANYL

MYTHS v.s FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL



What is Fentanyl?



Fentanyl is an opioid medicine that has medical uses for pain control in both humans and animals. Fentanyl is also produced and sold illegally. If misused, fentanyl can cause a person's breathing to slow and stop; this is often called an "overdose." If breathing stops, a person can die.

Naloxone

Naloxone (also known by the brand name Narcan) is a medication that can reverse opioid overdoses by blocking the effects of opioids and restoring breathing in minutes. This includes overdoses caused by fentanyl

01

Naloxone is available as an injection or a nasal spray and is easy to use.

02

Anyone can administer naloxone – you do not need any special training.

03

You cannot hurt someone by giving them naloxone if they don't need it.

04

Naloxone is safe to give to everyone, including children and pets.





Myth 1

YOU CAN DIE FROM MERELY TOUCHING FENTANYL

You can't overdose just by touching fentanyl. In fact, there are no confirmed cases of overdose from touching fentanyl powder or pills. While fentanyl can be absorbed across the skin, this happens only with constant direct contact over hours and days. Still, you should avoid touching fentanyl.

Source: [Washington State Department of Health](#)

Myth 2

BREATHING IN FENTANYL POWDER WILL KILL YOU



Current research shows that fentanyl use in public places, such as buses and trains, does not produce enough contamination on surfaces to cause other passengers to overdose. If you see powder or a crushed pill on a nearby surface, do not touch it or attempt to remove it. Do not open windows or do anything that might cause powder to get into the air. If you see fentanyl powder on your clothes, use a non-alcoholic wet wipe to remove it or wet the area of the garment before removing it and laundering.

Source: [Washington State Department of Health](#)



Myth 3

YOU CAN OVERDOSE FROM SECONDHAND EXPOSURE

01

It is unlikely you will overdose just from being around or helping someone who has smoked or used fentanyl. There is no evidence of first responders experiencing an overdose from secondhand fentanyl exposure.

02

Accidental “secondhand” exposure to fentanyl smoke, powder, or residue in public settings is extremely unlikely to cause overdose. If you come across someone who might be experiencing an overdose, it is safe to help them.

03

We encourage people to review [the instructions on using naloxone \(PDF\)](#) to treat someone experiencing an overdose.

[Washington State Department of Health](#)