

Dear Manchester Public Schools Community,

I'm writing to share a story that illustrates how easily and even inadvertently children can be put at risk and how important parental oversight and involvement can be in ensuring their safety.

The mother of a fourth-grader contacted us today alarmed because she found a small, wrapped "honey packet" in her child's backpack last Friday. Her child said he had been given it in by another student. The mother said she initially thought nothing of it but later, when cleaning out the backpack, noticed the word "Pharma" on the packet then checked the small print and found it contained THC. We very much appreciate the parent reaching out to the school.

We investigated and learned that a parent who had purchased the packet legally for medical use had left it in the pocket of a jacket that was mistakenly worn to school by her child. We are told no children consumed the honey and are grateful for that.

However, we share this story as a cautionary tale. As you may know, adult use of cannabis is now legal in Connecticut and children, because of their small body size and weight, can be especially vulnerable to cannabis poisoning. Edible cannabis items can resemble common snacks and children may be unable to tell the difference, so we urge adults to keep cannabis in child-resistant containers or packages, and stored in a locked compartment, drawer, or cupboard that is out of sight and out of reach.

Keeping children safe requires constant vigilance and we all benefit from working together and looking out for one another.

Sincerely

Matt Geary