



**Erie County Health Department**  
*An Accredited Public Health Department*  
**Erie County Community Health Center**  
*A Federally Qualified Health Center*  
**Peter T. Schade, MPH, REHS**  
*Health Commissioner*



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Consumer and Retail Notice: Kratom-Related Products Now Illegal in Ohio

**Sandusky, OH, December 18, 2025** – The Ohio Board of Pharmacy has issued an emergency rule making “all forms kratom-related products illegal to sell, possess, or distribute in the state of Ohio.”

In its natural form, Kratom is a leaf indigenous to Southeast Asia that is used as an herbal substance that produces a stimulant and opioid-like effect. Kratom-related products are synthetic versions of the natural substance called “7-OH” that stimulate opioid receptors in the body.

Some brands market Kratom-related products as “all natural” or as alternatives to opioids.

“We’re already seeing the impact of these products, sometimes called “gas station heroin”, firsthand at the Erie County Detox,” said Stephanie Salyer, RN, Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Erie County Health Department. “We’ve treated patients struggling with severe kratom dependency and withdrawal. These products are far from harmless; they carry a high risk of addiction and can lead to serious medical complications. If you or a loved one are struggling, please know that you don’t have to face it alone. Our team is here to help with medically supervised support and a path toward recovery.”

The banned Kratom-related products include all derivative forms of kratom, including:

- 7-hydroxymitragynine (commonly referred to as 7-OH)
- Mitragynine pseudoindoxyl
- Dihydro-7-hydroxy mitragynine
- 7-acetoxymitragynine
- Counter names for these products include Smurphs, Oxin, Opia and OhmzConez
- This rule DOES NOT apply to isolated mitragynine, including products that are made of natural kratom in its vegetation (leaf) form.

“The emergency ban on synthetic kratom-related products, like 7-OH, is a vital step in addressing a rapidly evolving public health threat. While these substances are often sold alongside natural supplements, these high-potency derivatives carry an extreme risk of toxicity and overdose,” said Peter Schade, Erie County Health Commissioner.

“We want the community to know that help is available right here in Erie County for anyone struggling,” added Salyer. “You can call the Detox at 419-624-3353. We’re here to help.”

### About the Erie County Health Department

The Erie County Health Department’s mission is to promote and improve the health and safety of the communities and environment within Erie County while preventing disease through essential public health services. ECHD operates the Erie County Community Health Center, the Erie County Detox, Kaptur Rogowski House, and Compass Point, providing adult day services for Alzheimer’s and Dementia patients. For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit [www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com](http://www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com).

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