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**January 21, 2022**

**Health Department of Northwest Michigan News Release**

**SAFE Northern Michigan offers parents virtual tour  
to showcase ways teens hide alcohol, drugs in bedrooms**

SAFE in Northern Michigan, which promotes prevention of substance use in youth, has created an interactive bedroom to show parents and caregivers ways teens may be concealing alcohol and drug use right in their home.

The virtual mockup allows users to navigate around the bedroom and learn common ways and places drugs and alcohol are hidden. Users can search the room and click on the + button to learn more about items that might indicate drug or alcohol use. The virtual tour and educational information are available by clicking this [link](#).

“Parents are the number one prevention tool in keeping their youth drug and alcohol free,” said Susan Pulaski, Community Health Supervisor with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, and Project Director of SAFE in Northern Michigan. “This virtual experience demonstrates to parents and caregivers ways teens may be concealing substance use in plain sight,” she added.

The SAFE coalition has also created a traveling teen bedroom to help parents learn about how their teens might be using substances in plain sight. The "Hidden in Plain Sight" trailer is typically open in spring and fall for parent tours at events such as sporting activities and parent-teacher conferences.

A nonprofit organization, SAFE exists to prevent youth substance use, increase community awareness and create change through collaboration, education, prevention initiatives and environmental strategies of tobacco, alcohol, and other substance use in Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet counties.

Some 85 youth members, representing public schools in the three counties, draft scripts for TV ads and go on-camera to record them, give invaluable input on trends they are seeing with their peers, and much more. In addition to youth, adult coalition members advocate for ways to prevent substance use. To learn more, visit [www.SAFEinNM.com](http://www.SAFEinNM.com).

Cutline:

This virtual mock bedroom, available through Safe in Northern Michigan at [www.SAFEinNM.com](http://www.SAFEinNM.com), shows parents and caregivers common ways and places drugs and alcohol are hidden. Users can search the room and click on the + button to learn more about items that might indicate drug or alcohol use.

*The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit [nwhealth.org](http://nwhealth.org).*

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Parents are the [#1 prevention tool](#) in helping keep their youth alcohol and drug free.

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