



McAllen Police Department

MEDIA ADVISORY - UPDATE

For Immediate Release
MR 04302026 02
Contact Person: Sgt. John E. Saenz
Contact Number: 956-681-2083.

Suspect Facing Related Charges



Francisco Ariel Cuevas Rivas

McAllen Police Investigators continue the investigation related to a report of a 12 year-old experiencing a medical emergency after using a vape device. This investigation was prompted by police response to an unconscious 12 year-old student upon morning arrival at his school campus.

A magistrate in the McAllen Municipal Court determined probable cause was sufficient to issue a warrant of arrest for **Francisco Ariel Cuevas Rivas**, 18 years old, for **Manufacture or Delivery of a Substance in Penalty Group 2, Causing Serious Bodily Injury**, a **First Degree Felony**. Francisco Cuevas Rivas was arrested Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

McAllen Police Investigators continue their investigation, with the assistance of state and federal agencies. Cuevas Rivas remains in custody and faces additional drug-related charges. Others may face charges if this investigation identifies additional conduct.

Anyone with information about the crime is urged to call McAllen Crime Stoppers at 956-687-TIPS (956-687-8477). Information that leads to an arrest may be eligible for a cash reward. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through the smart phone app "P3 Tips."

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(previous release: April 28, 2026)

Student Suffers Medical Distress After Vaping

Nature of Call-For-Service (CFS): Assist Agency

Agency Requesting Assistance: Lonestar Emergency Medical Services

Requested Assistance: 12 YR. Old Male Possible Overdose.

Day/Date: April 22, 2026.

Time: 7:34 AM.

Location: 14000 Block of North 29th Street, McAllen, Texas

CFS Summary (generally):

The Reporting Person(s) reported “male is unconscious ...male possibly inhaled something ...male is in the bus ... male vomiting”.

Responding Officer(s) identified the person as a 12 year-old male student and further determined that while on their bus enroute to school, another student shared a vape device with the male victim. Upon using the vape device, the male victim is seen acting in an “abnormal” manner and upon arriving at school was left on the bus experiencing abnormal reaction.

Although NARCAN was field deployed, the male victim required a Medical Transfer to a Hospital facility for emergency care.

One male student was identified as the source of the vape device. This student was detained and faces related charges.

Preliminary investigation has determined that the vape device tested positive for 50% Benzylpiperazine (BZP).

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) placed BZP in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act due to its high abuse potential and lack of accepted medical use or safety. Use of BZP has been promoted as a substitute for meth.

It has no known medical use in the United States¹.

The McAllen Police Department, with assistance of state and federal agencies, continues its investigation into this dangerous incident.

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¹ Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Control Division Drug & Chemical Evaluation Section, March 2026.