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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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PREVENT PILL MISUSE AND ADDICTION: DRUG TAKE BACK DAY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, October 22, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Frederick County residents are strongly encouraged to take their unused, unwanted or expired medications to one of several drug disposal locations as part of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day effort sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Last April, Frederick County residents turned in 1,448 pounds of prescription drugs at state and local law enforcement partners' sites. Overall, the DEA and its partners have taken in over 6.4 million pounds - about 3,200 tons - of pills. This effort is one strategy for preventing the misuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications, thus, preventing unintended overdoses and deaths in our community.

According to the 2014 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey results, 9.4% of Frederick County high school seniors reported taking a prescription drug (such as OxyContin, Percocet, codeine, or Xanax) without a doctor's prescription one or more times in the past 30 days; likewise, 7.1% of Frederick County middle school

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students surveyed reported the same behavior. Furthermore, results from the Maryland Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey, conducted in March 2015, revealed that 67% of survey respondents ages 18 and older reported that people get prescription opioids by stealing them from family members and 58% of respondents got painkillers from friends. “While prescription drugs help millions of people when used as prescribed, the abuse of these drugs causes many health risk including addiction and overdose” states Dr. Busby-Parker, Opioid Misuse Prevention Program Coordinator, with the Frederick County Health Department.

On Saturday, October 22 from 10am- 2pm, local collection sites will include:

- **Nyneo Field at Harry Grove Stadium** - 21 Stadium Dr, Frederick, MD 21703
- **Natural Resources Police** - 2011 Monument Road, Myersville, MD 21773
- **Maryland State Police, Frederick Barracks** - 110 Airport Drive East, Frederick, MD 21701

Residents are encouraged to take an active role in this drug prevention event to safely discard unwanted and expired medications. The following items may be dropped off during the event or at one of the drop-off sites: prescription and over-the-counter medications, medical samples, pet medications, and medicated ointments and lotions. Participants may dispose of their medication in its original container and are strongly encouraged to remove any identifying information from the prescription label.

For more information about the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day initiative, visit www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback. For information about the dangers of prescription medication misuse and the dangers of alcohol and drug use, please visit www.drugfree.org , www.takebackmylife.org, www.medicineabuseproject.org or contact the Frederick County Health Department at 301-600-1755 or visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS .

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