



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FREDERICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CORRECTS MEDIA REPORTS

FREDERICK, MD -- The Frederick News Post's headline and article content in the April 28 edition inaccurately reported information about a syringe services program.

The Frederick County Health Department received grant funding from the Maryland Department of Health and Human Services Infections Disease Prevention and Health Services Bureau to explore the feasibility of local support for and the capacity that would be needed to implement a State syringe services exchange program. We are not in a position to launch an exchange program.

The goal of syringe services programs is harm reduction, reducing the associated harm from infections with HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. The Frederick County Health Department is exploring all models and opportunities to reduce the risk of the spread of infectious diseases. Should an exchange program ever be implemented, it would be one of many approaches to combat the opioid epidemic that is impacting our community.

At this time the Frederick County Health Department is still in the information gathering phase to determine if this is a strategy that is right for our jurisdiction.

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