



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DRUG TAKE BACK DAY SLATED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, October 28, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Frederick County residents will have the opportunity to participate in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day effort sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). On this day, residents are strongly encouraged to turn in their unused, unwanted or expired medications to one of several drug disposal locations where law enforcement officials will gather and safely dispose of these medications. Last April, Frederick County residents turned in 1,258 pounds of prescription drugs at one of three collection sites in the county. Nationally, the DEA and its partners collected over 450 tons of prescription drugs at 5,498 sites.

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 November 2016, revealed that 39% of survey respondents ages 18 and older reported that people get prescription opioids by stealing them from family members and 26% of respondents got painkillers from friends. “Everyone can take part in the prevention of the misuse or abuse of prescription drugs by properly disposing of unused and expired medications”, Dr. Taylor, Prevention Program Coordinator, with the Frederick County Health Department.

On Saturday, October 28 from 10am until 2pm, law enforcement officials will collect unwanted medications at the following sites:

- **Trinity School Parking Lot** - 6040 New Design Road in Frederick (beside Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium stadium)
- **Natural Resources Police** - 2011 Monument Road in Myersville
- **Maryland State Police Barracks** - 110 Airport Drive East in Frederick

Residents are encouraged to take an active role in this drug prevention event to safely dispose unwanted and expired medications. The following items may be dropped off during the event: 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 for information about monitoring, storing and disposing of medications, please visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/DrugTakeBack or contact the Frederick County Health Department at 301-600-1755.

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