



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DRUG DISPOSAL EVENT AT UNITED HEALTHCARE **SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2018**

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, June 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., Frederick County residents will have the opportunity to participate in a Drug Disposal Event sponsored by United Healthcare, Frederick County Health Department, and Whitesell Pharmacy. On this day, residents are strongly encouraged to turn in their unused, unwanted or expired medications at United Healthcare located on 800 Oak Street, Frederick, MD 21703. If you missed the April 2018 National Drug Take Back Day, here is another opportunity to safely dispose of your medications.

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 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

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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”, says Dr. Michelle Taylor, Prevention Program Coordinator with the Frederick County Health Department.

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 can remove any identifying information from the prescription label.

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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