



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 DAY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, October 27, law enforcement agencies across the nation will partner with communities to collect unwanted, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs for “National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.” Sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the events will collect medicines from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Last April, over 949,000 pounds of medicine were collected and safely destroyed nationwide. More than 1,000 pounds of medicine were collected in April 2018 at collection sites in Frederick County, Maryland.

In Frederick County, law enforcement agencies will collect unwanted medications at the following locations:

- Wegmans Parking Lot - 7830 Wormans Mill Road in Frederick
- Maryland State Police Barracks - 110 Airport Drive East in Frederick
- Natural Resources Police - 2011 Monument Road in Myersville

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The following items may be dropped off during the event:

- Prescription and over-the-counter medicines
- Medical samples
- Pet medicines
- Medicated ointments and lotions

Participants may dispose of their medicines in the original container and can remove any identifying information from the prescription label.

According to the 2016 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey results, 12.6% of Frederick County high school students and 3.5% of middle school students reported misusing a prescription pain medicine (such as OxyContin, Percocet, or codeine) at least once. Furthermore, results from the 2016 Maryland Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey revealed that 39% of survey respondents ages 18 and older got 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 participating in Drug Take Back Day events and by properly disposing of unused and expired medications,” explains Todd Crum, Prevention Program Supervisor with the Frederick County Health Department.

In conjunction with “Drug Take Back Day” at the Wegmans Parking Lot location, the Frederick County Health Department Harm Reduction Program will host a Syringe Disposal Day. Between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Frederick County residents will be able to drive through and conveniently dispose of syringes, needles, lancets and auto injectors. This partnership allows residents the opportunity to safely dispose of sharps and helps keep officers safe. Last April, over 3,100 syringes and needles were collected and safely disposed.

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For more information about the DEA's "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day" initiative, visit www.DEATakeBack.com. For information about the dangers of prescription medicine misuse and for information about monitoring, storing and disposing of medicines, please visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/DrugTakeBack or contact the Frederick County Health Department at 301-600-1755.

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