



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OCTOBER 18, 2019

DRUG DISPOSAL DAY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, October 26, 2019 Frederick County will take part in the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) 18th "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day". This event offers residents the chance to prevent medicine abuse by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. At the April Drug Take Back Day event, local residents safely turned in nearly 900 pounds of medicine at three collection sites in Frederick County in a 4-hour period.

On October 26 between 10AM and 2PM, law enforcement personnel will be collecting medicines at the following locations:

- Former Trinity School – 6040 New Design Road in Frederick
- Maryland State Police Barracks - 110 Airport Drive East in Frederick

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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 may remove any identifying information from the prescription label.

In addition to medicine disposal, the Frederick County Health Department's Harm Reduction Program will be on-site at both locations to collect used or unused sharps including syringes, needles, lancets and auto injectors. In April, the program collected 6,208 syringes and needles for disposal. Sharps must be separated from any medicine being disposed.

This event is for residential disposal and is not intended for businesses, clinics or medical/healthcare facilities.

According to results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 2 million Americans misused prescription pain relievers for the first time within the past year, which averages to approximately 5,480 initiates per day.

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

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