



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OCTOBER 16, 2020

DRUG DISPOSAL DAY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24th 2020

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, October 24, 2020 Frederick County will take part in the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day". This drive-through event offers residents the chance to prevent medicine abuse by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. At the October 2019 Drug Take Back Day event, local residents safely turned in nearly 687 pounds of medicine at two collection sites in Frederick County in a 4-hour period.

On October 24 between 10AM and 2PM, law enforcement personnel will be collecting medicines in a drive-through event format at the following locations:

- Former Trinity School – 6040 New Design Road in Frederick
- Urbana Volunteer Fire Department - 3602 Urbana Pike in Frederick

The following items may be dropped off during the event:

- Prescription and over-the-counter medicines (in pill form **only**)
- Prescription patches
- Pet medicines (in pill form **only**)

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

In compliance with Covid-19 safety precautions, participants are expected to wear a mask upon arrival and remain in their vehicles. Participants are also asked to have all medications and sharps separated and ready for disposal.

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. 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 the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.9 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. This drug disposal event provides an opportunity for local residents to prevent drug diversion, addiction and overdose deaths by safely and securely disposing their expired and/or unwanted medications.

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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