



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

CONTACT: Cherish McMillan
Public Information Officer
Office of Planning, Assessment & Communication
301-600-3112
TTY: 800-735-2258
CMcMillan@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OCTOBER 5, 2021

DRUG DISPOSAL DAY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23rd 2021

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, October 23, 2021, 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 opportunity to prevent medicine misuse and diversion by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. As an additional service to the community, the event will also provide for the disposal of used or unused sharps including syringes, needles, lancets and auto injectors. At the April 2021 Drug Take Back Day event, local residents safely turned in nearly 446 pounds of medicine and approximately 17,331 sharps at the two collection sites in Frederick County in a 4-hour period.

On October 23 between 10AM and 2PM, law enforcement and health department personnel will be collecting medicines and sharps in a drive-through event format at the following locations:

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

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Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer

350 Montevue Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21702

Phone: 301-600-1029 ▪ Fax: 301-600-3111 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258





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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**)

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. Sharps must be separated from all medicine being disposed.

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

To protect against Covid-19, participants are asked to wear a mask and remain in their vehicles. Participants are also asked to have all medications and sharps separated and ready for disposal.

According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 16.3 million Americans misused prescription drugs. The study indicates the most common source of prescription pain relievers were obtained from a friend or relative in some way (i.e. being given them, buying them or taking them without asking). 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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