



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
FCHealthDeptFrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OCTOBER 20, 2022

Drug Disposal Day Scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2022

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, October 29, 2022, Frederick County will take part in the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day". This drive-through event offers Frederick County 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.

On Saturday, October 29 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., law enforcement and health department personnel will be collecting medicines and sharps in a drive-through event format at the following locations:

- Frederick County Health Department – 350 Montevue Lane 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 medications 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 are encouraged to 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. If disposing sharps, please have an approximate count of sharps to be disposed.

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

To protect against COVID-19, the use of masks is recommended. Participants are encouraged to have all medications and sharps separated and ready for disposal.

According to the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 16.1 million Americans reported misusing any prescription psychotherapeutic drug in the past 12 months. This drug disposal event provides an opportunity for local residents to prevent drug diversion, addiction and overdose deaths by safely and securely disposing of 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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