Central Michigan
District Health Department
Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Area Newspapers

From: Shelby Pasch, Health Promotion Supervisor

RE: National Prescription Drug Takeback Day

Release Date: Immediately (October 19, 2020)

October 24th is National Prescription Drug Takeback Day

Dispose of your Unused, Unwanted Prescription Medications Responsibly

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) along with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) would like to recognize National Prescription Drug Takeback Day on Saturday, October 24th. This event is DEA's 19th nationwide event since its inception 10 years ago and was established to provide the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Last fall, Americans turned in nearly 883,000 pounds of prescription drugs at nearly 6,300 sites operated by the DEA and almost 5,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners. DEA, along with its law enforcement partners, has now collected nearly 6,350 tons of expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications since the inception of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative in 2010.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

In addition to DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, there are many other ways to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs every day, including the 11,000 authorized collectors that are available all year long. For more information, visit DEA's year-round collection site locator. To keep everyone safe, collection sites, including CMDHD, will follow local COVID-19 guidelines and regulations. CMDHD will not be open to the public, but arrangements can be made to receive a medication dissolvable pouch to dispose of your medications properly through CMDHD's Syringe Service Program, Exchange Central, by calling or texting the confidential line, (989) 506-6419. Services are free and anonymous; no questions will be asked.

National Prescription Drug Takeback Day is a single day event, we also offer several services through Exchange Central our local syringe service program. Exchange Central is a harm reduction program to reduce the harms of substance use on an individual and community. Syringe Service Programs are designed to help decrease the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C due to risky practices such as the sharing of needles. Through Exchange Central individuals have access to clean equipment, Narcan, and sharps containers along with free HIV and Hepatitis C testing. Narcan training is available and secondary exchange is encouraged. Syringe Service Programs are legal, and all participants are protected against all paraphernalia laws. For more information visit our website at, www.cmdhd.org.

The Federal Drug Administration also provides information on how to properly dispose of prescription drugs. More information is available here: https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/where-and-how-dispose-unused-medicines.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 24 Take Back Day event, go to www.DEATakeBack.com.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.