



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, CMDHD Health Promotion Supervisor

RE: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Release Date: Immediately (October 13, 2022)

October 29th is National Prescription Drug Take Back 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 Take Back Day on Saturday, October 29th. This event is DEA's nationwide event since its inception 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. April 2022 marked the 22nd National Take Back Day where Americans turned in 721,0093 pounds (360 tons) of prescription drugs at over 5,100 sites operated by the DEA and 4,427 total law enforcement participation.

CMDHD is partnering with the Isabella Substance Awareness Coalition by hosting a medication Take Back event on Tuesday, October 25th from 11am-4pm at CMDHD's Isabella County Location, 2012 E. Preston in Mt. Pleasant.

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](#).

National Prescription Drug Take Back 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 basis. Syringe Service Programs are designed to help decrease

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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 29th 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 and follow [Central Michigan District Health Department](#) on Facebook.

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