



# Central Michigan District Health Department

*Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities*



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## **PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA**

**To:** Local Media Outlets

**From:** Shelby Pasch, CMDHD Health Promotion Supervisor

**RE:** National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

**Release Date:** (Week of) March 28<sup>th</sup>

### **April 22<sup>nd</sup> is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

Dispose of your unused, unwanted prescription medications responsibly on Thursday, April 6 from 1:00-4:00pm at CMDHD's Mt. Pleasant office.

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, April 22, 2023. This event was established by the DEA 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. The previous National Take Back Day in October 2022 resulted in Americans turning in nearly 647,163 pounds of prescription drugs at nearly 5,000 DEA sites and over 4,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners' sites ([www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)).

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. For more information, visit [DEA's year-round collection site locator](#). On April 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00pm, CMDHD is partnering with the Isabella Substance Awareness Coalition to take back medications at the Mt. Pleasant CMDHD office located at 2012 E. Preston.

While National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a single-day event, CMDHD also offers several services through Exchange Central, their 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

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decrease the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C, which can be transmitted from risky practices like 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](http://www.cmdhd.org).

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) provides additional information on how to properly dispose of prescription drugs: <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 Take Back Day event, go to [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://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](http://www.cmdhd.org) and follow [CMDHD](#) on Facebook.

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