



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



Steve Hall, RS, MS
Health Officer

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Medical Director

PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local News Media
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
Release Date: October 17, 2023

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is October 28th

Dispose of your unused or 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 28th. CMDHD is partnering with the Isabella Substance Awareness Coalition and hosting a medication take back event on Thursday, October 26th from 10am-2pm at CMDHD's Isabella County location: 2012 E. Preston in Mt. Pleasant.

"This has been DEA's nationwide event since its inception and was established to provide the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs," said Shelby Pasch, CMDHD Health Promotion supervisor. The 24th National Take Back Day, in April 2023, saw Americans turn in 663,725 pounds (332 tons) of prescription drugs at over 4,900 sites operated by the DEA and 4,497 total law enforcement participation.

The DEA 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 cut down the damage of substance use on an individual and community basis. Syringe Service Programs are designed to

Please visit us online at www.cmdhd.org.

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 <https://www.cmdhd.org/exchange-central>.

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 28th 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 us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

###

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



Proud member of the [Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance](#): 7 local health departments advocating for public health.