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Northland Agencies Offer Safe Prescription Disposal on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Set for Oct. 28

Residents Reminded to Bring Their Unwanted Prescription Drugs to Northland Sites for Safe Disposal and to Keep Them From Misuse by Teens and Others

The Northland Coalition, with the support of Tri-County Mental Health Services, has partnered with the DEA, law enforcement agencies and other communities across the country to encourage the responsible disposal of prescriptions during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Oct. 28. The service is free and anonymous.

October is National Prevention Month and the Take Back event offers the community another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Studies show that the preponderance of abused prescription drugs are obtained from the medicine cabinets of family and friends, resulting, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in the significantly high rates of prescription drug abuse and accidental poisonings and overdoses.

A fact sheet on teen medicine abuse compiled by the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) cites many warnings about the widespread misuse and abuse of prescription drugs by teenagers.

The CADCA reports that surveys from the National Institute on Drug Abuse report that 20 percent of teens say they have taken a prescription drug without having a prescription. The CADCA says the most commonly abused prescription medications include opioids and pain relievers such as hydrocodone (Vicodin®) and oxycodone (OxyContin®); barbiturates and benzodiazepines including diazepam (Valium®) and alprazolam (Xanax®); and stimulants including dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine® or Adderall®) and methylphenidate (Ritalin® or Concerta®)

In addition to prescription drugs, some over-the-counter (OTC) drugs can be misused. Five percent of teens surveyed report abusing over-the-counter (OTC) cough medicine to get high. The CADCA says teens can use as much as 25 times the recommended dose of the more than 100 cough medicines containing dextromethorphan (DXM) on the market

in order to get high. When taken in excessive amounts, the CADCA says DXM can cause very serious side effects affecting heartbeat, blood pressure and memory as well as causing nausea and vomiting.

The CADCA recommends parents and guardians talk to their teens about prescription and OTC cough medicine abuse, share information about prescription and OTC medicine use, safeguard medicines in the home and properly dispose of medicines no longer needed. In addition to misuse, the improper disposal of prescription drugs, such as flushing them, can negatively impact the water supply and community at large.

Prevention Services Manager Vicky Ward, Tri-County Mental Health Services, the administrative support for the Northland Coalition, emphasizes the importance of the issue. "Since 1999 fatal drug overdoses from prescriptions have tripled, exceeding overdoses from heroin and cocaine."

Ward said properly disposing of unused or unneeded prescription drugs is critical in addressing their misuse.

Ward said the community's enthusiastic response to the Take Back program, which was established in 2009, has been gratifying. "Both our law enforcement agencies and the community at large have recognized the importance of this issue."

Currently there are 12 permanent drop box sites, located in area Law Enforcement agencies across Clay, Platte and Ray Counties. The sites and their hours of operation include:

Excelsior Springs Police Dept. Lobby
301 South Main, Excelsior Springs, Mo 64024
(816) 630-2000
Permanent Drop Off hours: Open 24 hours daily

Gladstone Police Dept.
7010 N. Holmes, Gladstone, Mo. 64118
(816) 436-3550: Drop Off hours: Open 24 hours daily

Kearney Police Dept.
725 W. 92 Highway, Kearney, Mo. 64060
(816) 628-3925
Drop Off hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

KCMO Police North Patrol Lobby
11000 NW Prairie View Road, Kansas City, MO 64153
(816) 437-6200 Drop Off Hours: Open 24 hours daily

KCMO Police Shoal Creek Patrol Lobby

6801 NE Pleasant Valley Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64119
(816) 413-3400 Drop Off Hours: Open 24 hours daily

Lawson Police Dept.
103 W. 3rd St., Lawson, Mo. 64062
(816) 580-7210 Drop Off Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(Advised to call before coming.)

Liberty Police Dept. Lobby
101 E. Kansas St., Liberty, Mo. 64068
(816) 439-4716 Drop Off Hours: Open 24 hours daily

North Kansas City Police Dept. Lobby
2020 Howell Street, North Kansas City, Mo. 64116
(816) 274-6013 Drop Off Hours: Open 24 hours daily

Platte County Sheriff's Office Lobby
415 Third Street, Platte City, Mo. 64079
(816) 858-2424 Drop Off Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

Richmond Police Dept.
205 Summit St., Richmond, Mo. 64085
(816) 776-3575; Drop Off Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Riverside Police Dept. Lobby
2990 NW Vivion Road, Riverside, Mo. 64150
(816) 741-1191 Drop Off Hours: 24 hours daily

Smithville Police Dept. Lobby
107 West Main Street, Smithville, Mo. 64089
(816) 532-0500 Drop Off Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

If any of the listed drop sites are not convenient, those interested can visit www.dea.gov, type in their zip code and find the drop location nearest to them.

WHAT NOT TO BRING – WON'T BE ACCEPTED

- Do not bring illicit drugs (e.g. cocaine, marijuana, etc.) KCPD asks that anyone finding illicit drugs call 911 and ask for an officer to respond to the location.
- Not accepted: sharp objects, including needles, radioactive medicines, bio-hazardous materials or glass thermometers or other medical devices.

For those unable to use the Prescription Drug Take Back boxes in their area, the following method of disposal is recommended:
Remove and shred labels from the bottles. Crush pills and mix them with coffee grounds or kitty litter. Place the mixture in a sealed container and dispose of it with trash.

For further information about the Take Back program or prescription drug abuse, contact the Northland Coalition by visiting www.northlandcoalition.com or calling 816-877-0401.