



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ALLIANCE TO HEAL & LA CROSSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WILL HOST PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY October 26<sup>th</sup> TO FIGHT OPIOID EPIDEMIC**

The County of La Crosse, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), will participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Health and Human Services building downtown.

"Now is a great time to clean out your medicine cabinet and safely dispose of your unwanted or expired medications," said Attorney General Josh Kaul. "Whether you dispose of unwanted medications at a Drug Take Back event or permanent drug drop box near you, we can each do our part in the fight against the opioid epidemic."

What: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

When: Saturday, October 26th, from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Where: 300 4<sup>th</sup> St. N. La Crosse, WI 54601

This effort will continue to bring focus to the issue of prescription medication or drug abuse in Wisconsin. Drug Take Back Day provides a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the community about the potential abuse and consequences of improper storage and disposal of these medications. Find your nearest drug disposal location at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/drug-take-back-day.htm> or <http://www.alliancetoheal.com/>.

Unused or expired medicine should never be flushed or poured down the drain. Water reclamation facilities are not designed to remove all pharmaceuticals and trace amounts are showing up in rivers and lakes.

#### **GUIDELINES:**

All waste pharmaceuticals must be generated by a household – no businesses are allowed.

**Bring:** Prescription (controlled and non-controlled) and over-the-counter medications, ointments, patches, inhalers, non-aerosol sprays, creams, vials, and pet medications. Vape pens or other e-cigarette devices (batteries removed).

**Do Not Bring:** Illegal drugs, needles/sharps, acids, aerosol cans, bio-hazardous materials (anything containing a bodily fluid or blood), personal care products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreens), household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas), mercury thermometers.

- Participants may dispose of solid, non-liquid medication(s) by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into a disposal box or into a clear sealable plastic bag. Plastic pill containers should not be collected. Blister packages without the medications being removed are acceptable.
- Liquids will be accepted during this initiative. However, the liquids, creams and sprays must be in their original packaging. Liquids without the original packaging will not be accepted.
- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers.

Community members are also reminded that many drug disposal boxes are open year-round.