

Vernon County Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

April 16, 2018

NEWS RELEASE

TO: News Media
FROM: Beth Johnson, RN, BSN, Director/Health Officer, Local Police Departments & Vernon County Sheriff's Office
RE: WI Department of Justice Prescription Drug Take-Back Day
DATE: April 28, 2018

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and community partners will give the public another opportunity to remove potentially dangerous pharmaceutical controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. This one day effort will continue to bring a focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. This is a great opportunity for those who have accumulated unwanted, expired and unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of the medications.

During last year's event, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) collected more drugs than on any of the previous 10 events since it began in 2010. WI collected 30 tons and was one of the top three states with the largest collections.

Medicines that are in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines - flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash - both pose potential safety and health hazards.

On Saturday, April 28 2018, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., WI DOJ and its partners will hold their annual Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at sites nationwide. ***The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.***

Local Law Enforcement Agencies throughout Vernon County are coordinating the Drug Take-Back Day in an effort to address this vital public safety and public health issue. Local Police Departments and the Sheriff's Office have set up collection points throughout the County in an effort to make it easy for residents to deposit their unwanted prescription drugs anonymously. Controlled, non-controlled and over-the-counter medications, ointments, inhalers, patches, non-aerosol sprays, creams, vials and pet medications will be collected.

The collection sites are as follows and will be open from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM except Readstown Police Department will hold their collection from 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM and LaFarge Police Department will hold their collection from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

- ▶ **Viroqua Police Department**
702 East Broadway
Viroqua, WI 54665
- ▶ **Westby Police Department**
200 Melby Street
Westby, WI 54667
- ▶ **Stoddard Village Hall**
180 Main Street
Stodard WI 54658
- ▶ **Hillsboro Police Department**
123 Mechanic Street
Hillsboro, WI 54634
- ▶ **Readstown Police Department**
116 N. 4th Street
Readstown, WI 54652
7 AM – 11 AM
- ▶ **Ontario Police Department**
313 Main Street
Ontario, WI 54651
- ▶ **LaFarge Police Department**
201 South Cherry Street
LaFarge, WI 54639
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Medication can be disposed of by removing it from its container and disposing of it directly into a disposal box at the site. Blister packs are acceptable without medication being removed. Law enforcement personnel will not count, inventory or log medications. Liquids will be accepted in original containers only. **No needles/sharps, illegal drugs, mercury thermometers, aerosol cans, personal care products (shampoo, lotions, soaps) or household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas) will be accepted.**

Thank you for your assistance in this important public safety and public health matter.

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