



Brad D. Schimel
Wisconsin Attorney General

P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2018

Drug Take Back Day is April 28

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel invites all Wisconsinites to do their part in preventing misuse and abuse of prescription painkillers and other pharmaceuticals by taking their unwanted medications, both prescription and over the counter, to Drug Take Back Day locations on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Many drug disposal boxes are also available year-round at law enforcement agencies across the state.

“In 2016, opioids killed 827 people in Wisconsin,” said Attorney General Schimel. “We know that more than two thirds of people who have abused prescription painkillers first got them illegally from a friend or family member. Every household in Wisconsin has the ability to help stop the opioid epidemic and save lives by storing prescription drugs securely and disposing of unused medication on Drug Take Back Day.”

In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), 312 local law enforcement agencies will be holding Drug Take Back events across the state on April 28. This effort will continue to bring focus to the issues prescription painkiller abuse and the opioid epidemic cause 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. To find a Drug Take Back Location near you, go to: www.doseofrealitywi.gov/find-a-take-back-location/.

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

To ensure the success of Drug Take Back Day, in addition to the DEA, DOJ relies on the generous support of Fuchs Trucking, Covanta Energy, the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana State Police, Waukesha County, Waukesha County Sheriff's Office, and all participating local law enforcement agencies.

Since 2015, Wisconsinites have disposed of over 330,000 pounds (165 tons) of unused and unwanted medications; and the state has been a national leader in the DEA's drug disposal program. Repeatedly, Wisconsin had more law enforcement agencies participate in the biannual event than any other state in the country. And, Wisconsin has repeatedly had the third largest drug disposal collections in the country, only falling behind California and Texas.

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.

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 and their weight evenly distributed within the boxes of collected solid prescription medications. 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.

For more information, go to www.DoseofRealityWI.gov