

HC DrugFree is keeping Howard County *In the KNOW!!!*

Dispose of Your Pet Medication on October 24

Tell your pet-loving friends that HC DrugFree will take their pet medication and sharps.

Keep your unused medication
out of the wrong paws!



HC DrugFree
Empowering the Community

Howard County Drug Take-Back Day

Saturday October 24th 10am-2pm

Wilde Lake Village Center

www.hcdrugfree.org

Safely dispose of:

Prescription Medication
Over-the-counter
medication
Sharps (Syringes, Needles,
Epi-Pens, etc.)
Vitamins
Pet Medications

Howard County: Is There a Doctor in The House?

Thank you to all the medical staff already signed up, but we need MORE help. To keep everyone safe, we need **trained medical staff** to assist with the medication and sharps collection on Saturday, October 24. Nurses, EMTs, doctors, pharmacists, etc. Please share this with others.

Have them volunteer at www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdultVolunteerOct24

Teens Hurry to Register

NEW: Teen Advisory Council Updates

Reminder: Members of HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) and their parents/guardians should have received an email about this Saturday's Medication and Sharps collection. Thank you for following that guidance about how to volunteer. Due to COVID safety concerns we will not open this youth volunteer opportunity beyond TAC.

Save the date: TAC members, please save Monday, **November 9** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for our next time together on Zoom. More information will be emailed to you ASAP.

Want to join TAC? All Howard County high school students may [click here](#) to access the 2020-21 school year TAC registration form. Signed forms are due each year. Open to all Howard County high school students. Community service hours available.

Email a signed PDF to admin@hcdrugfree.org or mail a hard copy to HC DrugFree, 5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206, Wilde Lake Village Center, Columbia, MD 21044. Be sure to include a photo.

Help Is Available

October: National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Maryland law defines domestic violence "abuse" as the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between "family or household members":

- Assault
- An act that places a person in fear of imminent serious bodily harm
- An act that causes serious bodily harm
- Rape or sexual offense
- Attempted rape or other sexual offense
- Stalking
- False imprisonment, such as interference with freedom, physically keeping you from leaving your home or kidnapping you

Visit Maryland Courts for more information or contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline at www.thehotline.org or call 1-800-799-7233. In Howard County, contact Hopeworks at 410-997-2272.

Medication Collected in October 2019

Wow!!! Literally "Tons" of Medication Collected

National Results: October 2019 (18th National Take Back)

- Total Law Enforcement Participation (including HC DrugFree's partnership with Howard County Police): **4,896**
- Total Collection Sites: **6,174**
- Total Weight Collected: **882,919 lbs. (441.5 Tons)**

HC DrugFree's location collected **1,262 lbs in 4 hours**

Bring your meds to HC DrugFree's site on October 24 to add to the 2020 collection results.

Am I My Family's Drug Dealer?

Answer: You may be. Most people who misuse prescription drugs get them from family, friends, and acquaintances.

Why Should I Care about Medication Disposal or Storage?

Answer: Unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications are a public safety issue, leading to potential accidental poisoning, misuse, and overdose. Proper medication disposal and storage saves lives and protects the environment.

Who Should Have Access to My Meds?

Answer: Everyone knows to keep medicine “out of the reach of children” but once your children become teens, there’s a good chance they can reach all medicines in your home and they know exactly where you keep what. Many people keep their medicine in easy to reach, easy to access cupboards, medicine cabinets, drawers, etc. So put your medicine somewhere that only you can easily find and access. Lock it up if you can. This will keep your medication from unintentionally ending up in the wrong hands and just may save someone’s life!

Can I Flush Meds Down The Sink or Toilet?

Short answer: No, please don't flush your meds so they don't end up in rivers, lakes, bays, and community drinking water supplies.

Do I Need to Remove Labels or Pills from Bottles?

Short answer: No, not if you use HC DrugFree's convenient drive-thru collection. Labels with your name, etc. won't be accessed by others, and yes, pills may stay in original bottles/boxes. All meds are guarded and transported by Howard County Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) after being placed in sealed bins that are destroyed.

Will You Return My Sharps Container or Pretty Shopping Bag?

Short answer: No. Due to new COVID safety practices and unlike past collections when we tried to return your containers and fancy shopping bags, we ask that you **bring your sharps and medication ready to be dropped into the disposal bin.**

You may bring sharps in the standard red biohazardous containers, secured laundry detergent bottles, or other thick, safe, secure containers so our volunteers do not get pricked. Absolutely **NO LOOSE NEEDLES.**

Adult Volunteers Needed: Outdoor Event and Socially Distanced

Volunteers will be outside (rain or shine), safely distanced from each other (i.e., holding an arrow or sign far from other people, permitted only close to your own family, etc.) and not near the medication or sharps. If you can't stand or want to relax and enjoy the event as you hold a sign or arrow, bring a lawn chair.

Can My Student Volunteer at The Collection?

Short answer: Due to new COVID safety practices and unlike past collections, we are limiting the number of student volunteers. HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council members with updated 2020 TAC registration forms may volunteer. TAC parents/guardians must complete the student waiver before **October 20** and follow all guidance. All volunteers must pre-register. If you are not pre-registered, please expect to be turned away.

How Can I Get More Info or A Flier?

[Click here](#) for a printable flier with an active link for adult volunteers and please share this flier with your friends!

The collection is scheduled for **Saturday, October 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot. Free. Open to the public.

Go to the "Dispose Medication" spinner box on our homepage at www.hcdrugfree.org and click on "Learn More" for any last minute COVID-related updates.

Paid advertising and some other expenses funded by the Howard County Health Department with MDH/BHA and SAMHSA funding.

Other News and Resources

If You Need Help

If you need help with depression, suicidal thoughts, or other serious mental health issues, please contact:

Grassroots Crisis Intervention: 410-531-6677

The Maryland Crisis Hotline: Dial 211 and then choose option 1

The Crisis Text Line: Text 741741 and a trained counselor will respond

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

The Howard County Health Department: 410-313-6202



For more information, contact
Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Executive Director
HC DrugFree
5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206



Wilde Lake Village Center
Columbia, MD 21044
Admin@hcdrugfree.org
www.hcdrugfree.org

Donate

