



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

### Howard County: Narcan Saved Lives

This year in Howard County, we have seen 25 confirmed overdose deaths, 109 non-fatal opioid overdoses, and 112 overdoses where Narcan was administered. Although we have seen a 27% decrease in nonfatal overdoses in 2020 compared to this time last year, there has also been a 10% increase in fatal overdoses compared to the previous year.

This update was reported in the County Executive's, The Ball Bulletin, on October 6, 2020.

### Parents: Hurry to Register

#### Free Parenting Classes Begin on **Tuesday, October 20**

[Click here](#) for a printable flier and please share this flier with other parents!

Once again, HC DrugFree and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office in partnership with the Howard County Health Department will offer evidence-based, interactive classes to Howard County parents/guardians.

This class is for Howard County parents/guardians only and designed for parents of 9-14 year olds. However, if your children aren't 9-14 and you want to participate, please register so we can contact you if we have questions.

After completing all 4 classes, families will be able to:

- Influence their children to help prevent drug use and other risky behaviors.
- Develop clear family guidelines and expectations about drug use.
- Teach children how to stay out of trouble, keep their friends, and still have a good time.

**Dates:** Tuesdays, October 20, 27 and November 10, 17, 2020 (No class will be held on Election Day, November 3.)

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Online using Zoom.

Howard County parents/guardians may register at:

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCDrugFreeFall2020>**

For more information, contact Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Executive Director, HC DrugFree at [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org). Funding provided by the Howard County Health Department, MDH/BHA, and SAMHSA.

**Convenient Drive-Thru Medication and Sharps Collection**

## Popular Site! Thank You, DEA Washington

In a recent post, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Washington credited HC DrugFree's semi-annual medication and sharps drive-thru collection location as **"one of our most popular sites"** and we are thrilled to hear that praise for this national event.

Bring your meds and sharps and **come see why our site is so popular** and help to keep these services in our community. Join us on Saturday, October 24 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (More info below.)

As always, **medication at our collection site will be guarded and transported by our partners the Howard County Police and the DEA.**

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## Medication and Sharps Drive-Thru Disposal on Saturday, October 24

[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](http://www.hcdrugfree.org)** and click on "Learn More" for any last minute COVID-related updates.

Advertising and some event expenses funded by the **Howard County Health Department** with MDH/BHA and SAMHSA funding.

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## 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.

Volunteer for all or part of the Saturday, October 24 event at **[www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdultVolunteerOct24](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdultVolunteerOct24)**

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## Looking for Howard County Trained Medical Staff

In addition to volunteers to hold arrows and signs, we need trained medical staff to assist with the medication collection on Saturday, October 24. Nurses, EMTs, doctors, pharmacists, etc. Please share this with others.

Have them volunteer at **[www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdultVolunteerOct24](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdultVolunteerOct24)**

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## A Look Down Memory Lane: Photo of 2013 Medication Collection



Medication collections have been happening at HC DrugFree's location for many years. Here is a photo from 2013 when former Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) board member, Brian Meshkin (2nd from the right in photo) partnered with HC DrugFree to have his company sponsor our event t-shirts and kick-off breakfast.

What's changed since 2013? HC DrugFree's former indoor event moved outdoors to become a drive-thru collection. In response to the community's requests, we began accepting sharps (needles, syringes and EpiPens). Best of all, **since 2013, thousands of Howard County residents have properly disposed of their medications and sharps and have been educated about medication misuse.**

We've come a long way with the **Howard County Police** by our side each step of the way guarding and transporting medication to keep our team and the community safe.

Ellen Flynn Giles, also a former HCPSS board member (2nd from the left in photo) has been part of our team since those early collections. HC DrugFree remains committed to our partnerships with HCPSS, the PTA Council of Howard County, the many PTAs/PTSAs supporting us throughout the years, the Howard County Health Department, Howard County Police, Howard County General Hospital, DEA, Howard County Government, and many others.

**Please volunteer to join our team on October 24.** Pictured below: Some of our 2013 volunteers.



## Teens Hurry to Register

### Teen Advisory Council Registration Forms

Howard County high school students may [click here](#) to access the 2020-21 school year Teen Advisory Council (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](mailto: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.

## Other News and Resources

### If You Like Our Work, Please Donate TODAY!

[Click here](#) or use the Donate Button below if you like our work and want to see us continue providing these FREE services.

Donate



### 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 select 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

## Gambling with Your Future

Call, text or chat 1-800-GAMBLER for free confidential, compassionate help with gambling problems.

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For more information, contact  
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