



Sign Up for the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day September 26, 2015; 10AM to 2PM

Dear Ohio Law Enforcement Agency,

Prescription drug overdose is a serious public health crisis in Ohio. Since 2002, prescription medications, such as opioid pain relievers and benzodiazepines, have contributed to the deaths of more than 9,000 Ohioans.

Leftover medication presents a serious diversion risk that can ultimately lead to addiction, particularly among young Ohioans. A recent survey by the Ohio Department of Health found that more than 1 in 5 (21%) of Ohio high school students reported using a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription one or more times during their life. A national study found that 62 percent of teens surveyed indicated that one of their main reasons for misusing prescription pain relievers was that they were easily obtained from their parents' medicine cabinets.

To address the diversion of prescription medications, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services encourage all Ohio law enforcement agencies to participate in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on September 26, 2015. By participating in this national day, you can help reduce the supply and accessibility of commonly abused prescription drugs in your community.

To participate in the National Drug Take-Back Day, follow these three steps:

STEP 1: The law enforcement agency submits the following information to Ashley Johnson by email (Ashley.Johnson@usdoj.gov) or phone (313-234-4232):

- a. Law Enforcement Agency name
- b. Law Enforcement Agency address
- c. Collection site(s) name(s) (if different)
- d. Collection site(s) address(es) (if different)
- e. Point of contact: name, email, phone number

Upon submission of this information, the proposed location will be added to the DEA's web site as a participating collection site: http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

STEP 2: The law enforcement agency conducts a take back event at the location provided to the DEA on September 26th between the hours of 10 AM – 2 PM.

Here are some important reminders when conducting a prescription drug take-back event:

- A law enforcement agency must appoint at least one law enforcement officer employed by the agency to oversee the collection.

- While law enforcement is encouraged to partner with local organizations to publicize the event (i.e. pharmacy, local health department, treatment board or local business), **only** law enforcement officers are allowed to handle the drugs collected.
- A take-back event must have at least one receptacle for the collection of drugs. It is recommended that the receptacles be a substantially constructed container (i.e a large outdoor garbage can) with a removable inner liner (i.e. heavy duty trash bag). A container that locks to prevent unauthorized access is preferred, but not required.
- Those disposing of unused or expired drugs shall place them directly into the drug collection receptacle or hand them directly to a law enforcement officer to then be placed in the collection receptacle.
- No needles or liquids should be collected. The DEA **will not** destroy needles or liquids as part of the event.
- At the conclusion of the take-back event, the collected drugs must be removed from the event location and securely stored by the law enforcement agency in a manner that prevents the diversion of controlled substances and is consistent with that agency's standard procedures for storing illicit controlled substances.

STEP 3: At the conclusion of the event, a DEA representative will coordinate with your agency to collect the drugs. This should either occur on the Saturday of the event or the following Monday. The DEA representative will then transport the drugs to a site for destruction **at no cost to the law enforcement agency.**

To assist you with the promotion of the tack-back day, the DEA has developed a partnership toolkit that can be accessed by visiting: http://www.dea.gov/take-back/takeback-day_2015_sep.html

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your local DEA representative at the numbers listed below:

Ohio Southern – Columbus	Mark McHugh	614-255-4192
Ohio Northern – Cleveland	Stephen Parkinson	216-274-3611

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio, we hope that you will consider taking part in this important day. Events such as these can significantly limit the number of drugs that could possibly be stolen, misused or abused. Together, we can save lives and create change in our communities.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

Steven W. Schierholt, Esq.
Executive Director
State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy

Tracy J. Plouck
Director
Ohio Department of Mental Health
and Addiction Services