

## Take Back Initiative Protocols

- On Saturday, April 30, 2022 state and local law enforcement agencies in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), may host one or more collection sites at locations of their choosing. Locations should be selected that provide easy access and available parking.
  - Collection sites are **NOT** allowed to be held **INSIDE** pharmacies/drug stores. They can be right outside the doors or in the parking lot, but not in the building.
- Collection efforts may be combined with community drug awareness activities and involve the distribution of brochures and other information. In addition to the national and local media exposure being done by DEA, you are welcome and encouraged to publicize the take back day through your own agency's media contact protocol.
- Controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter substances may be collected. The general public is often unaware of this distinction in medication status.
- This program is anonymous and all efforts should be made to protect the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications. No questions or requests for identification should be made.
- Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into a disposal box. If an original container is submitted, the individual should be encouraged to remove any identifying information from the prescription label by either removing the label or utilizing a permanent marker.
- No effort should be made by law enforcement personnel to count, inventory, or log medications.
- All solid dosage pharmaceutical products and liquids in consumer containers may be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure that the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.
- Intra-venous solutions, injectables, inhalers, syringes, chemotherapy medications, vaping devices that have batteries that cannot be removed, or medical waste **WILL NOT**

be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens and require special disposal.

- All participants must retain possession of their own medication during the surrender process, law enforcement personnel should not handle the medications at any time and should simply have participants either empty the medication into the disposal box and throw the container into a garbage bag or throw the entire container in the disposal box.
- **A law enforcement officer must remain with the drug disposal box at all times.** Collected pharmaceuticals should be handled as drug evidence with law enforcement custody to safe-guard the surrendered material.
- At the conclusion of the event, a law enforcement officer will seal the drug disposal boxes in accordance with your agency's policy and procedure.
- The drug collection boxes should then be returned to your police department and stored per your department's standard operating procedures for safe keeping and temporary storage, until they are turned over to DEA.
- By registering with DEA for this one day National Pharmaceutical Drug Take Back Day being held on April 30, 2022, no additional waiver letter is needed.

Thank you for your participation!