

Vernon County Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

April 12, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

TO: News Media
FROM: Beth Johnson, RN, BSN, Director/Health Officer, Local Police Departments & Vernon County Sheriff's Office
RE: WI Department of Justice Prescription Drug Take-Back Day
DATE: April 29, 2017

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and community partners will give the public another opportunity to remove potentially dangerous pharmaceutical controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. This one day effort will continue to bring a focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. This is a great opportunity for those who have accumulated unwanted, expired and unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of the medications.

During last year's event, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) collected more drugs than on any of the previous 10 events since it began in 2010. WI collected 31 tons and was one of the top five states with the largest collections.

Medicines that are in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines - flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash - both pose potential safety and health hazards.

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., WI DOJ and its partners will hold their annual Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at sites nationwide. ***The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.***

Local Law Enforcement Agencies throughout Vernon County are coordinating the Drug Take-Back Day in an effort to address this vital public safety and public health issue. Local Police Departments and the Sheriff's Office have set up collection points throughout the County in an effort to make it easy for residents to deposit their unwanted prescription drugs anonymously. Controlled, non-controlled and over-the-counter medications, ointments, patches, non-aerosol sprays, creams, vials and pet medications will be collected.

The collection sites are as follows:

- ▶ **Viroqua Police Department**
702 East Broadway
Viroqua, WI 54665
- ▶ **Westby Police Department**
200 Melby Street
Westby, WI 54667
- ▶ **LaFarge Emergency Services Bldg**
201 So. Cherry Street
LaFarge, WI 54636
- ▶ **Hillsboro Police Department**
123 Mechanic Street
Hillsboro, WI 54634
- ▶ **Stoddard Village Hall**
180 Main Street
Stoddard, WI 54658
- ▶ **Ontario Police Department**
313 Main Street
Ontario, WI 54651

Medication can be disposed of by removing it from its container and disposing of it directly into a disposal box at the site. Law enforcement personnel will not count, inventory or log medications. Liquids will be accepted in original containers only. **No inhalers or needles/sharps, illegal drugs, mercury thermometers, aerosol cans, personal care products (shampoo, lotions, soaps) or household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas) will be accepted.**

Thank you for your assistance in this important public safety and public health matter.

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Vernon County Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

**Protect Our Children
Protect Our Environment**



Bring your unused or expired household prescription drugs to the Nearest Collection Point to be disposed of safely.

(1 day collection)

Improper disposal of expired or unused prescription drugs has been shown to cause damage to our environment and threatens our drinking water. Expired or unused household prescriptions are also a major concern because of the potential for misuse and abuse, and accidental poisonings of young children.

Accepting: Household prescriptions, over the counter medications from the general public. Liquids in original containers.

Not Accepting: Inhalers, needles/sharps. Drugs cannot be accepted at other times or locations due to strict regulations.

DATE: **04/29/2017** **TIME:** **10AM-2PM**

WHERE: Viroqua Police Dept ~ Westby Police Dept
Hillsboro Police Dept ~ LaFarge Emergency
Service Bldg ~ Ontario Police Dept ~ Stoddard
Village Hall

COST: **FREE**

**For information contact the Local Police
Departments or Vernon County Sheriff's Office
at 608-637-2123**

OR

**Vernon County Health Department at
608-637-5251**

SPONSORED BY:

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS &
VERNON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**