



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2017

APRIL 29 IS NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Mecosta County residents encouraged to bring in unused medications for disposal

Mecosta County, MI (April 24, 2017) – This year, April 29th is recognized as National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. District Health Department #10 encourages you to take action by disposing your unused medications all week long, leading up to the national event. Properly disposing excess medications helps protect the public safety and health of your community in the following ways:

- **Reducing the risk for abuse or addiction:** According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), more than 54 million Americans have abused prescription drugs at some point in their lives. Locking up medications and disposing of them once they are no longer of use can help protect those in your home from developing a pattern of prescription misuse.
- **Reducing the risk of accidental overdose or death:** In the U.S., nearly 61 people die every day from a prescription drug overdose. Children and senior citizens are especially vulnerable to an accidental overdose. Proper disposal of unused medications reduces the risk of these accidents by limiting access.
- **Protecting our natural resources:** Recent studies have shown that the presence of pharmaceuticals in our surface and ground water can have a negative impact on the aquatic ecosystem, which includes fish, birds, and other wildlife. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recommends disposing of medications to keep them out of the environment to protect our natural resources.

You can help protect your community by disposing of unused medications at a local drop-off site. The disposal location available in Mecosta County is:

Mecosta County Sheriff's Office

225 S. Stewart
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 592-0150

Always check with your local disposal site before dropping off your medications. If you have questions, please contact the Mecosta County office of District Health Department #10 at: (231) 592-0130.

About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is a local public health department whose mission is to promote and enhance the health of our communities and environment through protection, prevention, and intervention. DHD #10 is Michigan's largest geographical health department serving Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.

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