



Wisconsin Department of Justice & Drug Enforcement Administration Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative Protocol



Introduction

On April 24, 2021 the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will coordinate a Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative throughout Wisconsin. The focus is on removing potentially dangerous pharmaceutical substances from our state's medicine cabinets and preventing them from going into our water supply.

This one-day effort will continue to bring focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. This is a great opportunity for law enforcement agencies to host a take back event, and/or safely dispose of medications collected in prescription drug drop boxes. **No businesses allowed. All waste pharmaceuticals must be generated by a household.**

The Prescription Drug Take-Back Day goal is to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of these medications. Unused or expired medicine should never be flushed or poured down the drain. Water reclamation facilities are not designed to remove all of them and trace amounts of pharmaceuticals are showing up in rivers and lakes around the world.

Advertising

Additional Drug Take Back advertising materials will be made available to agencies that register to participate. Collection efforts may be combined with community drug awareness activities and involve the distribution of brochures and other information. For more information, please see the WI Department of Justice website <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/prescription-drug-take-back-day>

Protocol

To participate in the program, agencies must register with the WI DOJ in advance and agree to the below protocols. The link to register is as follows:

<https://wisdoj.eventsair.com/drug-take-back-april-2021>

For questions about registration, please contact Danielle Long (longdb@doj.state.wi.us or (414) 403-4437). **The registration deadline is March 15, 2021.**

On Saturday, April 24, 2021, participating state and local law enforcement agencies can host one or more collection sites at locations of their choosing. Locations should be selected that provide easy

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public access and available parking. DOJ will post the locations of permanent drop boxes and take-back events on our Dose of Reality website (<http://doseofrealitywi.gov/drug-takeback/>). If you are hosting a take-back event on a date other than April 24, 2021, or are simply looking to dispose of the medications you have collected in your permanent drop box, you **must** register, receive boxes and liners and turn your boxes over to DOJ for disposal.

Bring: Prescription (controlled and non-controlled) and over-the-counter medications, ointments, inhalers, patches, non-aerosol sprays, creams, vape cartridges and devices **(with batteries removed)**, vials and pet medications.

Do Not Bring: Illegal drugs, needles/sharps, mercury thermometers, aerosol cans, biohazardous materials (anything containing a bodily fluid or blood), flares, personal care products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreens, etc...), household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, chemicals, oil, or gas), acids or any vape devices containing batteries of any kind.

- 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, including proof of residency should be made.
- Participants may dispose of solid, non-liquid medication(s) by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into a disposal box or into a clear sealable plastic bag. Plastic pill containers should not be collected. It is recommended that recycling bins are provided at the collection sites for disposal of such containers. Blister packages are acceptable without the medications being removed.
- Liquids will be accepted during this initiative. However, the liquids, creams and sprays must be in their original packaging and evenly distributed within the boxes of collected solid prescription medications. Liquids without the original packaging will not be accepted.
- **In order to turn over medications collected by your agency, you must utilize the boxes and liners that will be provided by the DEA. In order to SAFELY facilitate the processing, transportation, and disposal of the surrendered medications. You may use leftover DOJ issued boxes from previous events. The boxes are 17 ¼" x 11" x 10" and can hold up to 50lb. The DEA will supply all disposal boxes and liners at no cost to law enforcement. Boxes must be requested on the registration form. Boxes and liners will be sent to your department no later than April 9, 2021. Please contact Jamie Kubina (Jamie.R.Kubina@usdoj.gov or 414336-7377) with questions about boxes.**
- No effort should be made by law enforcement personnel to count, inventory, or log medications.

- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers. If an individual attempts to surrender an illicit controlled substance, law enforcement personnel should handle such material as abandoned property in accordance with department policy.
- All participants must retain possession of their own medication during the surrender process. Law enforcement personnel should not handle the medications at any time.
- A law enforcement officer must remain with the drug disposal box at all times. Collected pharmaceutical products should be handled as drug evidence with law enforcement custody to safe-guard the surrendered material.

Covid-19 Precautions

Please follow your local and state requirements regarding mask usage and distancing if you are hosting a Drug Take Back event.

Post Collection Day Protocol

You do not need to host a take-back event in order to participate in this program; however, you must register as described above. Agencies offering a permanent drug drop box can turn over the collected drugs to DOJ for disposal per the protocol below.

After the event, a law enforcement officer will seal the drug disposal boxes in accordance with your agency's policy and procedure. It is recommended that the box be sealed with tamper-evident tape or evidence sticker. Each box should be labeled as "Miscellaneous Pharmaceuticals to be turned over to DOJ."

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 DOJ for disposal.

It is the responsibility of the participating agency to drop-off the collected pharmaceuticals at one of the designated regional collection sites. **Pharmaceuticals will not be accepted by DOJ in anything other than the disposal boxes provided.** Collected pharmaceuticals must be physically delivered to the site by law enforcement personnel and will not be accepted from a delivery service (i.e. – FedEx).

Please weigh your boxes and report the total weight collected by your agency to Danielle Long (longdb@doj.state.wi.us) before turning them over for disposal.

Once the collection boxes are surrendered at one of the designated drop-off sites, DOJ will assume responsibility for properly destroying the surrendered pharmaceuticals.

Regional Drop Off Sites:**LOCATION****DROP-OFF DATE/TIME****Northeastern Wisconsin**

Wisconsin State Patrol
851 S. Rolling Meadows Drive
P.O. Box 984
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-0984

Monday, April 26, 2021
10:00am – 1:00pm

Central Wisconsin

Wisconsin State Patrol
2805 Martin Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401-7172

Monday, April 26, 2021
10:00am – 1:00pm

Southwest Wisconsin

Wisconsin State Patrol
911 W. North Street
DeForest, WI 53532-1971

Monday, April 26, 2021
10:00am-1:00pm

West Central Wisconsin

Wisconsin State Patrol
5005 STH 53 South
Eau Claire, WI 54701-8846

Monday, April 26, 2021
10:00am – 1:00pm

Northwest Wisconsin

Wisconsin State Patrol
7102 Green Valley Road
Spooner, WI 54801

Sunday, April 25, 2021
10:00am-1:00pm

Southeast Wisconsin

State Fair Park

Cream Puff Pavilion

640 S. 84th Street, Gate #5

West Allis, WI 53214

Monday, April 26, 2021
8:00 am - 2:30 pm