



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

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Press Release

Not for op-ed

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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16 pounds of medication turned in at the 4/20 Drug Takeback and 3X3 Basketball Tournament! & A Medication Disposal Box Update

Approximately 150 Mendocino County community members attended the April 20, 2019 Drug Takeback and 3X3 Basketball Tournament- a huge success! Even more exciting- **16 pounds of medication was safely turned into Mendocino County Public Health during the event- that is 16 pounds of medication no longer a threat to our friends and family in Mendocino County.**

Substance use is an ongoing issue around our county. While we have not had comparatively large numbers of opioid overdose deaths here, any unnecessary death is one too many, and gravely affects the entire community surrounding that one individual.

Here at Mendocino County Public Health, we are especially aware of the increase in Fentanyl being found on the streets, and we want to be ready to take steps before it becomes a crisis. Therefore, a variety of Public Health measures are being taken in attempt to prevent the situation from worsening. Decreasing the number of pills being prescribed for pain, increasing the availability of treatments for addiction, providing naloxone to reverse overdoses when they do occur, and educating our community are all strategies being exercised locally.

When it comes to overdoses, oftentimes, having un-used or un-needed medications in the home can be dangerous to family members and visitors. Many adolescents start sampling opioids after finding unused pills in their parents' possession. Inviting visitors to one's home may give them the opportunity to search through medicine cabinets in your absence. Law enforcement has even reported that real estate 'Open Houses' are a common place where individuals search for medication.

So, getting rid of unnecessary medication is an effective preventative step we can all take. But how to dispose of it? We now know that flushing medication down the toilet contaminates the watershed.

In an effort to help our friends in the community safely dispose of their un-used medication, Public Health has partnered with MendoRecycle, and other community partners, to set up boxes for public disposal of medications- they kind of look like outdoor mailboxes! They are secure, and MendoRecycle empties them on a regular basis. For a current listing of where you can find the medication disposal box nearest you, please visit www.saferxmendocino.com.

Long-standing sites (that accept controlled substances) include:

- Mendocino County Sheriff's Office on Low Gap Road in Ukiah
- Long Valley Clinic in Laytonville
- Fort Bragg Police Department in Fort Bragg

Recent additions:

- Round Valley Indian Health Clinic in Covelo
- Yuki Trails Clinic in Covelo
- Anderson Valley Health Center in Boonville
- Howard Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy in Willits
- Mendocino County Public Health on Dora Street in Ukiah

We are in the process of ordering more boxes and establishing more sites around the county, including on the Coast.

We'd like to give a special thanks to our local businesses and organizations for their generous donations to the 2019 4/20 Takeback Event: Dave's Bike Shop, Slam Dunk Pizza, Savings Bank, The Arbor DFC Coalition, Redwood Valley Little Lake Band of Pomo Indians, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Super Taco, El Azteca, Schats, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Pinoleville Pomo Nation, Lucky's, and Marino's Pizza.

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