



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Lake County General Health District

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Frank Kellogg, R.S., M.P.H., Health Commissioner

To: Lake County Communities, County and Local Agencies, Lake Hospital System, Pharmacies, Physicians, Nursing & Assisted Living Facilities, Senior Centers, Libraries, Funeral Homes, & Veterinarians

From: Lake County General Health District
Laura Kramer Kuns, R.S. *LKK*
Supervisor of Liquid/Solid Waste & Water Supply Programs

Re: Lake County Pharmaceutical Drug Collection & Disposal Program

The Lake County General Health District and the Lake County Solid Waste District are pleased to announce the beginning of a pilot program for the continuous collection and disposal of pharmaceutical drugs. Beginning December 8, 2010 Lake County residents can dispose of their unwanted and expired prescription and non-prescription medications at one of five law enforcement departments throughout the county as follows:

Lake County Sheriff's Office
104 East Erie St.
Painesville

Mentor Police Department
8500 Civic Center Blvd.
Mentor

Willoughby Hills Police Department
35405 Chardon Rd.
Willoughby Hills

Madison Township Police Department
2065 Hubbard Rd.
Madison

Lakeland Community College Police Department
7700 Clocktower Dr., Building A, lower level
Kirtland

Each of these law enforcement departments will have a collection bin in their department where Lake county residents can bring their unwanted and expired prescriptions, cold/flu medications, pain relievers, pet medications, vitamins, creams, cough syrups, pills and prescription pain killers. Residents should remove or black out the personal information on pharmacy labels and leave the medicines in the original package or container. Residents should be advised that absolutely no needles or syringes are permitted in these bins.

The disposal hours for all the locations are convenient being Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the only exception is that there are no Sunday hours at Lakeland.

There are two major reasons for using the Lake County collection bins: Environmental Concerns and Public Safety. Prescription and non-prescription are being found in our rivers, streams and ground water. These drugs are considered to be "emerging contaminants of concern" partly due to the harmful effects that low concentrations are already having on the fish population. Our existing wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to remove these contaminants. Residents can help

to reduce the amount of these contaminants in our environment by utilizing the collection bins instead of flushing unwanted drugs down the toilet or putting them in the trash.

According to statistics from the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), prescription pain relievers are the new drug users' drug of choice versus marijuana or cocaine. By partnering with law enforcement in this program, it allows residents to bring in prescription pain killers such as oxycodone and hydrocodone commonly known as Percocet, Vicodin and OxyContin. Removing these narcotics from the medicine cabinet and properly disposing of them will help to reduce the potential of drug abuse and accidental drug misuse.

Another important partner is the Lake County Narcotics Agency who will support the law enforcement departments in central collection, storage, transport and destruction of the collected medications. Destruction of the drugs will take place by incineration.

This drug collection and disposal program was made possible by a grant from the Lake Erie Protection Fund through the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The monies for the Lake Erie Protection Fund are supported by the citizens of Ohio through their purchase of the Lake Erie License Plate. Additional grant monies were contributed to this project by the Lake County ADAMHS Board.

Both the Health District and the Solid Waste District are encouraging your organization to place the following link on your website for residents to access for information on this program:

<http://www.lcghd.org/formattedtext.asp?IncludedPageID=14964>

We will be distributing posters and fact sheets throughout the community to advertise this drug disposal program.

The Health District encourages residents utilizing the bins to participate in a brief five question survey about this program and for additional information to visit www.lcghd.org.