

National Take Back Initiative III
Saturday, April 28, 2012
10:00am – 2:00pm Local Time

Introduction

On April 28, 2012, from 10am – 2pm local time, DEA will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. This national take-back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment and the business communities to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they reside.

Registration for the Event

- Registration is online only. Instructions for accessing the website and registering to participate will be sent via email.

Collection Day Protocols

- State and local law enforcement agencies will host one or more collection sites at locations of their choosing. Locations should be selected that provide easy access and available parking. DEA will be assigning personnel to as many of these locations as we can once we determine the exact number and location of these events within our division.
- Controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter substances may be collected. The general public is often unaware of the distinction in medication status.
- Illicit substances such as marijuana or heroin 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 in accordance with department policy.
- Collection efforts may be combined with community drug awareness activities and involve the distribution of brochures and other information.
- 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 should be made.
- Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into the disposal box. You are NOT required to remove the Rx labels from the bottles by any federal law or regulation. Since the public is turning it in to you, there are NO patient privacy rules being violated. All material collected (including the Rx vials) will be incinerated.

- No effort should be made by law enforcement personnel to count, inventory, or log medications.
- All solid dosage pharmaceutical product and liquids in consumer containers may be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure that the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.
- Used Intra-venous (IV) solutions, injectibles, and syringes should not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens. No needles at all, please.
- 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.
- DEA will provide cardboard containers with plastic liners. If you need additional collection boxes, you are authorized to use a cardboard container approved by your department as part of its standard operating procedures. A heavy duty plastic trash bag works as well.
- At the conclusion of the event, a law enforcement officer should seal the containers in accordance with your agency's policy and procedure. It is recommended that the box be sealed with tamper-proof tape or an evidence sticker. Each box should be labeled as "Rx Drugs - DEA."
- If you have a scale available to you at your office, we would appreciate it if you could weigh the box and simply mark the weight, to the nearest pound, on the box.
- 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 DEA. We intend to begin collecting the containers after 2pm on April 28. It may take us a day or two to get to you, but we will coordinate with you regarding the pick-up.
- DEA will bear the cost of destruction of these materials. If you currently have a disposal arrangement that you wish to utilize in lieu of DEA picking up these containers, you are free to do so. We want this to be as simple as possible for you.
- Media Awareness – DEA will be buying ads in newspapers nationally, though I can not guarantee print ads in every community and will be communicating to radio and TV broadcasters with press releases in the days leading up to the event. We encourage you to engage your local media directly. Your departments are playing a major role in this event. We are simply attempting to coordinate these activities on a single day to raise awareness and help you provide this service to your communities.
- Questions or concerns may be addressed to Scott Collier, (314) 538-4712 or scott.x.collier@usdoj.gov.