

Media Release

Date: September 7, 2010
Contact: Samiah Slusser, Collaborating For Youth
(717) 338-0300 x 11 or (717) 319-8290
Release Date: Immediate

Adams County Locations to Host Prescription Drug Disposal Event

(Adams County, PA) On Saturday, September 25, 2010, local and state police are partnering with Collaborating For Youth, local government and environmental agencies, and various health organizations to sponsor a prescription drug "TAKE BACK" from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at several locations throughout Adams County. This prescription drug TAKE BACK provides an opportunity for Adams County residents and doctor offices to dispose of unused or expired medications safely. The collection is free and no questions will be asked.

Collections sites are as follows:

- 1) Adams County Agricultural Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg
– hosted by Cumberland Township and Gettysburg Borough Police
Departments
- 2) Alpha Fire Co. #1, 40 East King Street, Littlestown – hosted by Littlestown
Borough Police Department
- 3) Bermudian Springs School District, 7335 Carlisle Pike, York Springs –
hosted by Latimore Township, East Berlin Borough, and Reading
Township Police Departments

- MORE -

- 4) Biglerville High School, 161 North Main Street, Biglerville – hosted by Pennsylvania State Police, Troop H
- 5) United Hook & Ladder #33, 21 North Bolton Street, New Oxford – hosted by Eastern Adams Regional Police Department
- 6) Fairfield Fire Department, 108 Steelman Street, Fairfield – hosted by Carroll Valley, Liberty Township and Hamiltonban Township Police Departments

Seventy percent of people who abuse prescription pain relievers get them from friends or relatives (SAMSHA, 2008). The Adams County TAKE BACK is part of a national effort by the Drug Enforcement Administration to decrease the abuse of prescription drugs by decreasing their availability. Prescription drug abuse has risen rapidly in the United States because of availability and because people assume doctor-prescribed medications are safe.

Misuse of prescription drugs is responsible for more overdose deaths than "street drugs" such as cocaine, heroin, and amphetamines (Center for Disease Control, 2006). Prescription medications supersede marijuana as the drug of choice currently among 12-13 year old youth (SAMSHA, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2008) and 25% of drug-related emergency room cases relate to prescription drug abuse (DEA, 2010). Prescription medications abused most frequently include pain killers, stimulants, and tranquilizers. Those who share their prescription medications may be unaware of the potential for addiction and other health hazards.

- MORE -

Safe disposal of prescription drugs also reduces the damage to groundwater and the environment that results from improper disposal. The Adams County Office of Environmental Services and the Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership stress that flushing medicines down a toilet or sink contaminates water resources and can have a negative impact on fish and other aquatic species. Septic systems and public wastewater facilities are not designed to treat these products and eventually they can impact wells and community drinking water supplies. When not disposed of properly, unused and expired medications can cause poisoning in small children and pets through accidental ingestion.

Online drug prevention resources and information are available at www.drugfree.org. For prescription drug TAKE BACK sites across the country or for information about the national initiative, visit www.dea.gov. For more information regarding Adams County TAKE BACK, contact Collaborating For Youth, 717 338-0300 x 26, or drugfree@cfygettysburg.com.

Adams County's disposal is being sponsored by the Pennsylvania Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration in partnership with local and State Police, Collaborating For Youth, Adams County Department of Environmental Services, and the Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership, with support from Adams County Office For Aging, Inc., Gettysburg Hospital/Wellspan Health, Healthy Adams County, and the Watershed Alliance of Adams County.

###