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San Joaquin County Public Health Services

Drug Take Back Day – Free and Safe Disposal of Unwanted and Expired Human & Animal Medications & Vaping Devices

Stockton, CA — In an effort to not only hinder theft and misuse but also spare the environment from toxic disposal, San Joaquin County Public Health Services (PHS) and the San Joaquin County Opioid Safety Coalition (SJCOSC) are assisting the local law enforcement and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) by providing the San Joaquin County residents with four drop-off locations for expired and unwanted human and animal drugs.

The drop off sites will be collecting drugs and vaping devices from residents on Saturday, October 29, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The service is *free* and *anonymous* – no questions asked. Residents can stop by the following four walk-in and drive-through sites throughout the county:

1. Stockton Unified School District Department of Public Safety, 640 North San Joaquin Street, Stockton, CA 95202
2. Code 3 Wear, 304 Lincoln Center, Stockton, CA 95207
3. Young's Payless Market, 18980 North Highway 88 Lockeford, CA 95237
4. Woodbridge Grange Hall, 1074 East Academy Street, Woodbridge, CA 95258

County residents should note the followings:

- The sites cannot accept needles or sharps.
- Pills may be brought in loose, in blister packs, or in their original prescription bottles.
- Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container.
- Vaping devices and cartridges must have lithium batteries removed.

"Drug overdose and opioid misuse are serious issues that threaten the wellbeing of our loved ones," said San Joaquin County Public Health Officer Dr. Maggie Park. "We do not want our unused expired drugs to add to the problem. Therefore, let's clean out our medicine cabinets and dispose of all our unused or expired medications at the drop off locations or collection sites. Let's be part of the solution."

With studies indicating a majority of abused prescription drugs come from family and friends, particularly home medicine cabinets, clearing out unused medicine is essential. Prescription

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medications often end up in the wrong hands, fueling an epidemic that kills more Americans than car accidents, according to the DEA.

This Drug Take Back Day is the twenty-third nationwide event since its inception more than 10 years ago. Last spring more than 565 pounds of unused or expired medications were collected at San Joaquin County collection sites during the April 2022 Drug Take Back Day.

In addition to DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, there are more than 11,000 authorized collectors available year-round. San Joaquin County's Medication and Sharps Disposal Program's [website](#) provides information on free and safe disposal of medical sharps and medications while DEA's year-round [collection site locator](#) pinpoints controlled substance public disposal locations.

RESOURCES:

- San Joaquin County's Medication and Sharps Disposal Program
<https://bit.ly/3s6RQcy>
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Controlled Substance Public Disposal Locations - Search Utility
<https://bit.ly/3yR1YKo>

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