



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Drug Take Back Day Encourages Safe Disposal of Unwanted and Expired Drugs — Including Vaping Devices and Pet Medications

Stockton, CA (April 27, 2022) — On Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., San Joaquin County Public Health Services and the San Joaquin County Opioid Safety Coalition will work with local law enforcement and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide drop-off locations for old and unwanted drugs. Proper disposal of medications not only hinders their theft and misuse but also spares the environment from toxic disposal in the garbage or down sinks and the toilet.

The service is **free and anonymous**, no questions asked. To keep everyone safe, collection sites will follow local COVID-19 guidelines and regulations.

Residents can stop by five drive-through drop-off sites throughout the county:

- Stockton Unified School District Dept. of Public Safety, 640 N. San Joaquin St., Stockton
- Stockton Police Department Operations Building, 22 E. Market St., Stockton
- Code 3 Wear, 304 Lincoln Center, Stockton
- Young's Payless Market, 18980 CA-88, Lockeford
- Woodbridge Grange Hall, 1074 E. Academy St. Woodbridge

Please note: **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.
- Pet medications are also accepted.

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

“This is an opportune time to help protect our loved ones and community members from drug overdoses and opioid misuse,” says Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer. “I am inviting everyone to clean out your medicine cabinets and dispose of all your unused or expired medications at one of our Take Back sites. Together, we can reduce medication poisonings and overdoses in our county.”

This Drug Take Back Day is the 22nd nationwide event since its inception more than 10 years ago. Last fall more than 650 pounds of unused or expired medications were collected at San Joaquin County collection sites during the October 2021 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. For more information, visit [San Joaquin County’s Medication and Sharps Disposal Program’s website](#) or [DEA’s year-round collection site locator](#).

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 30 Take Back Day event, go to www.DEATakeBack.com. For questions about the local collaboration, contact Daniel Kim, Health Promotion Programs Coordinator, at 209-468-3842 or dkim@sjcphs.org.

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