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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Empty your medicine cabinet!

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day offers safe places to dispose of unused and old medication.

South Central Idaho – On April 22nd, South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Twin Falls County Sheriff's office, Twin Falls County Treatment and Recovery Clinic, Gooding Sheriff's office, Walker Center, Cassia County Sheriff's office, Wienhoff Drug Testing, the Idaho Office of Drug Policy, Blue Cross of Idaho, Jerome County Sheriff's office, Camas County Sheriff's office, Camas County Senior and Community Center, Men's Second Chance Living, and the Hailey Police Department to host several Take Back Day collection events from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the following locations:

- Twin Falls: Fred Meyer parking lot, 705 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.
- Twin Falls: Blue Cross office, 428 Cheney Dr. W.
- Jerome: Jerome Rec Center, 2032 S. Lincoln Ave.
- Gooding: Walker Center, 605 11th Ave. E.
- Burley: Smith's, 937 E. Main St.
- Fairfield: Camas County Senior Ctr, 129 Willow Ave. W.
- Hailey: Albertson's, 911 N Main St

The event will allow community members to safely and securely dispose of any unused or expired prescriptions and help prevent drug misuse in our state. All prescription drugs will be accepted, as well as over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and veterinary medications. Drug Take Back drop-offs will also accept vape pens, cartridges, or other e-cigarette devices (without the batteries in the device). **Needles will not be accepted.**

“This is one of the biggest Drug Take Back days we've had in the last few years! We have partners hosting seven different drop off points across our region to make disposal of unused drugs simple and easy,” said MaryAnn Doshier, SCPHD health education specialist. “Taking advantage of these drop off event locations on April 22nd doesn't just clear out your medicine cabinet, it also reduces the possibility of someone you know misusing them!”

At the Drug Take Back event last April, Americans turned in more than 700,000 pounds of prescription drugs at sites across the United States. Since 2010, Drug Take Back Day partners have helped collect nearly 16 million pounds of unneeded prescription medications.

In 2020, an estimated 55,000 Idahoans ages 12 and up misused prescription pain relievers. In 2019, state and national surveys found that over 14% of 9th to 12th graders in Idaho reported either improperly taking a prescription pain medication or taking pain medication that was not prescribed to them, one or more times in their life. Of these students, more than 41% said they took or received the prescription drugs from a family member or friend, and over 60% misused the medication in their own home.

When left in a medicine cabinet, thrown away or flushed, unused prescriptions can be dangerous to people, animals, or the environment. **Help keep our community safe and healthy by dropping off your old medication on Saturday, April 22nd.**

If you miss your local Take Back Day and need to get rid of prescription medications, find year-round drop off locations online at <https://www.phd5.idaho.gov/drug-safety/>.