



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**MICHIGAN STATE POLICE**

## **State Police: Safely Dispose of Unwanted Meds on Saturday**

*All 30 MSP Posts to Serve as Medication Disposal Sites*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 22, 2019**

**LANSING, MICH.** The Michigan State Police (MSP) is asking residents to dispose of expired, unused and unwanted pills during National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day this Saturday, one of two annual events held in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and other law enforcement agencies.

“Taking a few minutes to go through your home and discard these medications is something small that can have a huge impact,” said Col. Joe Gasper, director of the Michigan State Police. “The devastation caused by opioid and prescription drug abuse, accidental poisonings and overdoses is real. We urge you to do all you can to help us fight this crisis.”

MSP’s 30 posts will participate in the one-day ‘Take-Back’ effort from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, by serving as drop-off points. All collected pills will be destroyed, with no questions asked. Liquids, inhalers, patches and syringes cannot be accepted.

The State of Michigan is using every available tool to combat the opioid epidemic. The collaborative efforts of state agencies amplifies Michigan’s efforts related to prevention and treatment of patients, education of health professionals and enforcement of over-prescribers. Efforts include:

- A one-stop shop website ([Michigan.gov/opioids](http://Michigan.gov/opioids)) with all helpful information and resources on the epidemic.
- [Providing online resources](#) for patients, health professionals and communities about prevention and treatment of opioid abuse;
- The [Michigan Automated Prescription System](#) provides real-time prescription data and resources to better assess a patient’s risk for substance use disorder;

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[www.michigan.gov/msp](http://www.michigan.gov/msp)

- Assistance with [proper drug disposal](#) of unwanted medications;
- Michigan State Police posts serving as drug-take back sites and providing the [Angel Program](#) for individuals struggling with addiction.

For more information about opioids and the additional steps residents can take to protect themselves and loved ones, visit [michigan.gov/opioids](http://michigan.gov/opioids).

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is held twice a year, in April and October. During the October 2018 effort, MSP posts collected nearly 950 pounds of prescription drugs.

Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. Further, disposing of unused medicines by flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash can pose safety and health hazards.

MSP collection sites can be found [here](#). Additional collection sites across the state can be found by going to [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).

Anyone who is unable to participate on National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day can anonymously surrender their prescription drugs at any MSP post, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding holidays.

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