



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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April 25, 2022

Dear Colleague:

The [DEA's 20th National Drug Take-Back Day is April 30, 2022](#). This is a safe, responsible way to rid home medicine cabinets of unused prescription drugs and prevent diversion for misuse or illicit use. As a healthcare practitioner, outreach to patients in your local community to encourage participation in the DEA Take-Back Day can save lives.

The data is alarming. According to the federal government, for the first time in US history, annual overdose deaths reached 100,000 last year, marking [a 28.5 percent increase](#) from 2020 to 2021. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reports fatal fentanyl and/or heroin overdoses [increased 58.6 percent](#) from 2019 to 2020, with 2021 numbers predicted to be even higher. If this trend continues, the Commonwealth stands to lose over 2,600 residents from overdose deaths annually. Prescription opioids and other controlled medications are often found in conjunction with fentanyl overdose cases.

[Here is the link to find the nearest US Drug Enforcement Agency Drug Take-Back Day site nearest you.](#)

Please share this link to ensure as many individuals and families as possible are aware of this free, anonymous, “no questions asked” opportunity to dispose of prescription drugs. Drop-off sites will accept tablets, capsules, patches and other solid forms of medication. Vape pens and other e-cigarette devices will be accepted after batteries are removed. Sharps, illegal drugs, liquids such as intravenous solutions and syringes cannot be dropped off. Drugs brought to these locations will be disposed of in a secure, environmentally friendly and safe manner.

For questions, please contact DHP Prescription Monitoring Program Director, Ralph Orr at Ralph.Orr@DHP.Virginia.Gov.

Thank you for your active participation in this important program.

Sincerely,

David Brown, DC
Director, Virginia Department of Health Professions