



CITY OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

PULLMAN – October 26, 2019 is the 18th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) sponsors this event to provide Americans with an opportunity to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths, by encouraging the safe and proper disposal of prescription medications.

Unused or expired prescriptions medications pose serious public safety risks, leading to potential accidental poisoning, misuse and overdose. While it was common practice in the past to dispose of medications by flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash, both practices are prone to potential health and safety hazards, including increased risk of drugs making it into the wrong hands and potential impact on aquatic life.

Since 2010, Pullman has been providing members of the public with access to a prescription drug drop-box, available 24/7 in the Police Department lobby. Since then, the Pullman Police Department has collected and disposed of more than 2,537 pounds of prescription drugs. Last fall, Americans turned in nearly 469 tons (more than 937,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at nearly 6,300 sites operated by the DEA, and almost 5,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 17 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in more than 11.8 million pounds (approximately 5,900 tons) of pills. To find a local community collection site, please visit www.takebackday.dea.gov.

When transporting prescription drugs, state law requires that they be in the original prescription containers with the labels attached. It is illegal to possess prescription drugs outside of the original container, or to possess those prescribed to someone else. The prescription labeling can be removed at the Police Department, or the drugs may be placed in available plastic zipper bags, labeled with the drug name. By using the prescription drug drop box, your discarded drugs will be incinerated at a facility approved by the EPA and Washington Department of Ecology. We will accept all prescription medication from individuals only; medical offices and care facilities should follow protocol with their contracted disposal vendors.

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