



For Immediate Release

Prevention First is a collection site on National Drug Take Back Day, Saturday, October 27

[Springfield, IL] – On October 27, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Prevention First, the Springfield Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will host a collection site to provide residents with an opportunity to purge their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. On Saturday, October 27 residents are urged to bring medications for disposal to Prevention First, 2800 Montvale, Springfield, IL. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

At the Prescription Drug Take Back event last April, the DEA reported 415.5 lbs. of prescription drugs were collected by the Springfield Police Department and Prevention First in just four hours. Nationally, the last fifteen Prescription Drug Take Back events have taken nearly 5,000 tons of pills!

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.2 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

“Unused prescription drugs can find ways to get into the wrong hands. That can be very dangerous and even tragic. By decreasing easy access to prescription drugs, we are making steps towards keeping them out of the hands of others who might misuse and abuse them,” said Karel Homrig, Executive Director of Prevention First. “Additionally, this event gives us another opportunity to educate the public about how to prevent drug abuse before it starts.”

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The drive-through collection at Prevention First is only one of five collection sites in Springfield. Those unable to travel to Prevention First's office on October 27 can visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov/> to locate a collection site convenient to them.

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[Prevention First](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build community capacity to prevent substance abuse by providing training and technical assistance and raising public awareness.