



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief Human Capital Officers

FROM: Chuck Rosenberg, Acting Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration.
Beth F. Cobert, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management
Michael P. Botticelli, Director, National Drug Control Policy

Subject: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Saturday, April 30, 2016.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in partnership with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, urges all Federal employees to participate in the National Prescription Drug “Take-Back” Day on Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Individuals wishing to dispose of their medications can find a collection location at: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared prescription drug abuse and its consequences an epidemic, with more people dying from drug overdoses, primarily driven by prescription drug abuse, than in motor vehicle crashes. In 2014, 28,647 people died from overdoses involving some type of opioid, including heroin. Additionally, in 2013, 73 percent of teens said it was easy to access prescriptions from their parents’ medicine cabinet. These statistics indicate the value of proper prescription drug disposal as a key strategy to preventing prescription drug abuse, and this strategy is therefore included in the Administration’s *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan*.

Americans participating in the DEA’s tenth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on September 27, 2015, turned in 742,771 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at 5,202 take-back sites in all 50 states and U.S. territories. This brought the total amount of drugs collected in four years to 5,578,000 pounds, or 2,789 tons.

We encourage you to join this commitment to improving public health and safety by participating and inviting others – friends, family, and neighbors – to take part in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 30, 2016.