

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
#2023-03  
APRIL 17, 2023

CONTACT: Daniel Kim  
Health Education Programs Coordinator  
Phone: (209) 468-3842  
Email: [dkim@sjcphs.org](mailto:dkim@sjcphs.org)  
San Joaquin County Public Health Services

## **National Drug Take Back Day Encourages Residents to Dispose of Unwanted and Expired Drugs Properly — Including Vaping Devices and Pet Medications**

This Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., San Joaquin County Public Health Services and the San Joaquin County Opioid Safety Coalition will work with local law enforcement and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide drop-off locations for old or unwanted drugs. Proper disposal of medications not only prevents theft and misuse but also spares the environment from toxic disposal in the garbage or down sinks and toilets.

Residents can stop by seven drop-off sites throughout the county:

- Lathrop Community Center, 15557 5<sup>th</sup> Street, **Lathrop**, 95330
- Young's Payless Market, 18980 CA-88, **Lockeford**, 95237
- Lodi Police Department, 215 W. Elm Street, **Lodi**, 95240
- Woodbridge Grange Hall, 1074 Academy Street, **Lodi**, 95242
- Mountain House Town Hall, 251 E. Main Street, **Mountain House**, 95391
- Code 3 Wear, 304 Lincoln Center, **Stockton**, 95207
- Stockton USD Dept. of Public Safety, 640 N. San Joaquin Street, **Stockton**, 95202

The service is **free and anonymous**, no questions asked. Please note: **Sites cannot accept needles or sharps.**

- Pills may be brought in loose, in blister packs, or in their original prescription bottles.
- Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container.
- Vaping devices and cartridges must have lithium batteries removed.
- Pet medications are also accepted.

-more-

Public Information Office  
Phone: 209-468-3842

With studies indicating a majority of abused prescription drugs come from family and friends, particularly home medicine cabinets, clearing out unused medicine is essential. Prescription medications often end up in the wrong hands, fueling an epidemic that kills more Americans than car accidents, according to the DEA.

“This is an opportune time to help protect our loved ones and community members from drug overdoses and opioid misuse,” says Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer. “I am inviting everyone to clean out your medicine cabinets and dispose of all your unused or expired medications at one of our Take Back sites. Together, we can reduce medication poisonings and overdoses in our county.”

This Drug Take Back Day is the 24th nationwide event since its inception more than ten years ago. Last fall, 400 pounds of unused or expired medications were collected at San Joaquin County collection sites during the October 2022 Drug Take Back Day.

In addition to DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, there are more than 11,000 authorized collectors available year-round across the US. For more information, visit [San Joaquin County’s Medication and Sharps Disposal Program’s website \(http://bit.ly/3IYFXGr\)](http://bit.ly/3IYFXGr) or the [DEA’s year-round collection site locator \(bit.ly/3GyQw9W\)](http://bit.ly/3GyQw9W).

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 22 Take Back Day event, go to [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com). For questions about the local overdose prevention efforts, contact Rachel Zerbo, Public Health Educator, at 209-468-2699 or [rzerbo@sjcphs.org](mailto:rzerbo@sjcphs.org).

###