

Press Release

FOR Release October 16-20th

CONTACT: Angela Toth, 330-627-4866 ext. 1559

Date: October 4th, 2023

Carroll County General Health District

National Substance Misuse Prevention Month and Youth Substance Use Prevention Month.

October is National Substance Misuse Prevention Month and Youth Substance Use Prevention Month. Prevention strategies are so important as they aim to stop substance use before it occurs. To protect our community, it is vital that we continue to implement prevention strategies that support families, encourage healthy youth emotional development, and expand evidence-based programs in our community. Empower Carroll is Carroll County's own coalition working to empower Carroll County youth and their families by implementing effective substance use prevention strategies through education and awareness. To help spread awareness during National Substance Misuse Prevention Month, Empower Carroll would like to share some resources for safe medication storage and disposal:

Safe Medication Storage

Here are some ways to protect the children in your homes from reaching medications: (1.) Store medications and vitamins out of reach and out of sight of children. (2.) Make sure that the safety cap is locked on your medication bottles. (3.) Put medications away after each use. (4.) Avoid leaving medications out even if they will be used again in a few hours. (5.) Talk to your children about safe use of medications. (6.) Place visitor's bags, coats, and purses out of the reach of children as these items may contain medicine¹.

Disposing Medications Safely

Here are some ways to safely dispose of unused and expired medications:

Participate in a Drug Takeback Day

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office is hosting the next **National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 28th, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 P.M.** The takeback event will be in the main lobby of the sheriff's office (Address: 43 2nd St SE, Carrollton, OH 44615).

Visit a permanent drug takeback location

The **Carroll County Sheriff's Office** has a permanent drug drop box located in their lobby. This box can be accessed anytime of day or night and is open all year long. The only items that are not accepted at this drop box location are syringes and liquids of any kind.

The **Minerva Police Department** has a permanent drug drop box location that is open 24/7. The Minerva Police Department does not accept liquids or syringes. (Address: 209 North Market St. Suite B Minerva, OH 44657).

The **Magnolia Police Department** has a permanent drug drop box location. Please call the Magnolia Police Department before dropping off your medications (phone: 330-866-9434). The Magnolia Police Department drop box location does not accept liquids of any kind or syringes. (Address: 328 North Main St. Magnolia, OH 44643)

Use a drug deactivation pouch (such as a Deterra bag). A Deterra bag can help you deactivate over the counter and prescription medications at home. Deterra bags are available for free at the Carroll County General Health District. To pick up a free Deterra bag please call 330-627-4866 ext. 1559.

Do you have an interest in community substance use prevention? Consider joining the **Empower Carroll Coalition**. Membership in the Empower Carroll Coalition is open to anyone in the community. If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more about the Empower Carroll Coalition, please contact Angela Toth Community Engagement Coordinator for the CCGHD through email: atoth@carroll-lhd.org or by phone: 330-627-4866 ext. 1559.

Want to stay up to date on the Empower Carroll Coalition? Follow our Facebook page at Empower Carroll. The Empower Carroll coalition is also in the process of developing a website that will be titled: www.empowercarroll.com

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (n.d.). Put Your Medications Up and Away and Out of Sight.

XXXX