

Adam Crum  
Commissioner

dhss.alaska.gov



Department of Health  
and Social Services

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Clinton Bennett, DHSS, 907-269-4996, [clinton.bennett@alaska.gov](mailto:clinton.bennett@alaska.gov)

**Webinar:** Tune in by [Zoom](#) from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, for a public webinar on safe drug disposal and storage, non-opioid pain management and overdose prevention. To join by phone, call 1-408-638-0968, Webinar ID: 897 2119 6066.

### **April 30 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

April 27, 2022, ANCHORAGE – The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) encourages Alaskans to participate in the [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which happens twice a year in the fall and spring, encourages households to safely dispose of unneeded medications from their homes to prevent potential medication misuse and addiction. A list of Alaska's DEA Drug Take Back Day [participating locations](#) can be found at [opioids.alaska.gov](http://opioids.alaska.gov). DEA also offers an online tool to help locate [Drug Take Back Day sites](#) or [year-round pharmaceutical disposal locations](#) near you.

"It's important for leftover or unneeded prescriptions to be disposed of promptly, safely and responsibly, either through events like this or at a permanent collection site in your community," said Alaska's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anne Zink. "Unused prescription drugs can be a risk to children or others in the home and can find their way into the wrong hands, leading to poisonings, addiction or fatalities. You can reduce the risk to your family and the community by promptly and safely disposing unused opioids and other medications."

On Saturday, the DEA and its partners will collect prescription drugs including tablets, capsules, patches and other solid forms of medication. Liquids (including intravenous solutions), syringes and other sharps, and illegal drugs will not be accepted at DEA's Drug Take Back Day locations. See this [flyer](#) for information on how to safely dispose of syringes and sharps.

Most drugs should not be flushed in a toilet or thrown in the trash. Alaskans can also get safe drug disposal bags from their local public health center to deactivate certain drugs, such as opioids, before disposal. These bags are currently available free of charge at many [State of Alaska Public Health Centers](#). Call your local public health center to check on availability.

Experiencing pain is a normal part of healing from an injury, surgery or dental work. Your health care provider may decide opioids are the best pain management option for you, but before your provider writes and you fill an opioid prescription, it's important to have a detailed discussion about non-opioid pain management alternatives. Having this conversation with your health care provider can help identify the best treatment for you at the lowest level of risk.

DHSS will be hosting a public webinar via [Zoom](#) on Thursday, May 5, from noon to 1 p.m. to help inform Alaskans about safe drug disposal and storage, non-opioid pain alternatives and overdose prevention. To join by phone, call 1-408-638-0968, Webinar ID: 897 2119 6066.

More Information:

- DHSS: [Opioids in Alaska](#) and [Prevention at Home; Use Caution With Prescription Opioids](#)
- DEA: [Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#)

# # #