



## DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS & IN-HOME INJECTION NEEDLES

### **DON'T Flush Your Waste Drugs!**

The age-old advice of flushing pharmaceuticals down the toilet is now considered to be the wrong advice -wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to treat pharmaceutical wastes.

### **DISPOSE of Your Pharmaceutical Waste.**

In Southern Illinois there are many medication drop-off locations and local one-day events. For a list of drop-offs and one-day events visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov/> and [www.hsidn.org/new-page](http://www.hsidn.org/new-page).

### **REDUCE Pharmaceutical Waste whenever possible.**

- Use all antibiotics as prescribed by your doctor. Not using all doses of an antibiotic could lead to development of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria.
- Buy only as much as can reasonably be used before the expiration date.
- When prescribed a new medication, ask the doctor to prescribe only enough to see if the medication will work for you and in the lowest dose advisable.

---

### **DISPOSAL of In-Home Injection Needles**

To reduce the exposure risks from in-home needles, lancets and syringes, we suggest the following methods of disposal:

- Place used needles in a special “sharps” container and return it to a local collection site or by mail to a facility to be disposed of properly.
- Jackson County Health Dept. has sharps disposal containers available for purchase. There are two sizes available: small (3”x3”x8”) for \$5 & large (6”x9”x10”) for \$10. Clients can return full sharps containers to Jackson County Health Dept. for disposal. Please call 684-3143, ext. 150 for more information on this service.
- Your local pharmacist may also carry some of these products or be able to offer needle disposal advice. For more information on mail-back programs and in-home disposal devices, visit [www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org).

***Alternate Disposal Option:*** *If you do not wish to utilize a mail-back program or in-home disposal device, please follow these guidelines when disposing of in-home needles:*

- *Place all needles, lancets, & syringes in a sturdy plastic container (such as a laundry detergent bottle) or coffee can.*
- *Write “Sharps Household Generated - Do Not Recycle” on the outside of the container.*
- *Keep the lid on and keep out of reach of children and pets.*
- *When full, place tape around lid to secure.*
- *Place container in household trash for pickup by a County-licensed waste hauler for disposal at a permitted landfill.*
- *Never burn or bury any medical waste, including needles.*



Contact the Jackson County Health Department at 618-684-3143 ext. 128 or visit [www.RecycleJacksonCounty.org](http://www.RecycleJacksonCounty.org) for more information.