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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

December 11, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Department's RxBOX Program has Collected Over 66 Tons of Medication

DUPAGE COUNTY—The DuPage County Health Department's (DCHD) safe medication disposal program has collected and safely disposed of more than 132,250 pounds, or over 66 tons, of medications since the program launched in 2009. Proper disposal of unused medication helps protect the environment and reduce the misuse of prescriptions that could lead to addiction or overdose.

On Friday, December 4, seventeen municipalities participated in a DCHD drop-off event where 3,701 pounds of medications were collected. In 2020, the RxBOX program held three collection events, where a total of 12,093 pounds of medications were collected.

“During this pandemic, we continue to see the importance of the RxBOX program's efforts to encourage residents to clear out their medicine cabinets and safely dispose of their medications. Safe disposal of unused medications helps address the ongoing concern of substance use within our communities and to reduce the opportunities for these medications to be misused. We are thankful to our municipal partners and the residents of DuPage County for making this effort possible,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department.

This program offers residents a safe, easy way to drop off unwanted medications— including opioids and other controlled substances —to reduce the incidence of substance use and protect the environment from medications that would otherwise reach waterways and landfills. After collection, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency arranges for the incineration of these medications to ensure they are not reused.

The DuPage County Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Taskforce has identified the importance of reducing access to prescription

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drugs by promoting the use of safe drug-disposal through RxBOX and other drug take-back programs. The Health Department supports local community, hospital and pharmacy programs in order to achieve this goal.

For more information on disposal instructions, a list of items that are not accepted, and RxBox locations, visit [HOPE DuPage](#).

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