

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: DEA Secure Your Meds Campaign

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is asking Americans to keep prescription medications safe and secure until they can properly dispose of them. Secure Your Meds addresses a vital public safety and health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. This also prompts families to discuss the issue of controlled prescription drug abuse. The DEA urges individuals to keep unwanted medication locked in a safe and secure location.

Because of the current nationwide coronavirus pandemic, DEA postponed the 2020 Spring Take Back Day, originally scheduled for April 25, 2020. Additionally, every year, SAFE, The City of Glen Cove Mayor's office, Glen Cove Police Department and Glen Cove EMS partner on a similar event entitled "Shed Your Med's". This prevention program follows the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Take Back Day – a day that addresses abuse of controlled prescription drugs.

The accumulation of prescription medication has become a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. The DEA and Glen Cove's "Shed Your Med's" collaborators will reschedule the event for a date shortly after the health crisis recedes and national emergency guidelines are lifted.

In the meantime, DEA reminds Americans to clean out their medicine cabinets and secure unused, unwanted, and expired prescription medications for the next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

If you need to dispose of medications now, please see visit the DEA's year-round collection site locator at <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled. "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at www.safeglencove.org

