



Saint Louis County

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Ted Troolin
Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Pharmaceutical drop boxes collect more than 150 pounds of medicine

There are 152.5 fewer pounds of unneeded drugs inside the medicine cabinets of homes in northern St. Louis County. The medications instead were safely disposed of at one of seven “Take it to the Box” drop off sites, and have now been transported to a facility in Fosston, Minnesota, where they were incinerated.

St. Louis County Environmental Services set up the medication drop off sites in January and February of this year, with assistance from a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant. Drop off locations include the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Offices in Virginia and Hibbing, the Babbitt, Gilbert and Eveleth Police Departments, and the Ely and Floodwood City Halls.

“We are really happy with the response from the community that we’ve seen so far,” said Ted Troolin, director of Environmental Services. “Every bit of medication that we collect means there are fewer drugs out there that could be involved in accidental poisonings, fewer drugs that could be stolen and fewer drugs that could damage our environment.”

Improper disposal of medications, such as pouring them down the drain, has been linked to adverse effects on fish and wildlife. Meanwhile, medication left unused in a cabinet can lead to accidental poisonings of children and pets, or can contribute to prescription drug abuse.

Medications – both prescription and non-prescription – in any form from households can be dropped off anonymously at any of the Take it to the Box locations. This includes pills and capsules, blister packs, creams and gels, inhalers, IV bags, liquids, patches, powders, sprays and vials. Unacceptable items include needles, syringes, lancets and thermometers, as well as medications from businesses. Medications may be kept in their original container. The customer’s name may be crossed off if desired, but is not necessary.

Additional Take it to the Box locations are available at the Duluth/St. Louis County Public Safety Building, Hermantown Police Department and Proctor Police Department. These locations are coordinated by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD).

For more information about proper disposal of medicine in St. Louis County, call (218) 749-9703 or visit stlouiscountymn.gov. For more information about proper disposal of medicine within WLSSD, call (218) 722-0761 or visit wlssd.com.

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