



# Saint Louis County

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**Ted Troolin**  
Director

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Pharmaceutical drop boxes collect another 200+ pounds of medicine**

In the last three months, St. Louis County Environmental Services Department's seven "Take it to the Box" medication drop off sites have collected 209.8 pounds of unused pharmaceuticals. The drugs have now been transported by Sheriff's deputies to a facility in Fosston, Minnesota, where they were incinerated. This is in addition to the more than 150 pounds of medicine collected and disposed of in May, bringing the grand total to more than 360 pounds. St. Louis County Environmental Services set up the medication drop off sites earlier this year, with assistance from a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant.

"We are thrilled to see that word is spreading and more people are taking advantage of these drop-off sites," said Ted Troolin, director of Environmental Services. "By collecting and properly disposing of these medications, we are reducing the amount of drugs that could be involved in accidental poisonings, stolen or dumped in a way that could damage our environment."

Here are the specific amounts collected at each drop box location between mid-May and Mid-August:

St. Louis County Sheriff's Office in Virginia: 75.4 pounds

Eveleth Police Department: 38.4 pounds

St. Louis County Sheriff's Office in Hibbing: 33 pounds.

Gilbert Police Department: 22.8 pounds

Ely Police Department: 20.2 pounds

Babbitt Police Department: 20 pounds

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](http://stlouiscountymn.gov). For more information about proper disposal of medicine within WLSSD, call (218) 722-0761 or visit [wlssd.com](http://wlssd.com).

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