



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

St. Joseph County Department of Health

"To promote health and wellness with compassion and integrity through partnerships, education, protection, and advocacy for all who reside in and visit St. Joseph County"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2024

CONTACT: Matt Gotsch
(574) 235-9570 x 7962

Department of Health announces new naloxone program, observes National Prescription Take Back Day

In partnership with the St. Joseph County Police and the 525 Foundation, the St. Joseph County Department of Health will participate in the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at numerous locations around the county. As part of National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, Prescription Drug Take Back Day reminds residents that clearing out unused or expired medications from their medicine cabinets is a simple but powerful way to prevent misuse and protect our families. Safely disposing of them at DEA Take Back locations helps keep dangerous substances out of the wrong hands and out of the water supply.

In addition to this important giveback day, the St. Joseph County Department of Health is unveiling new naloxone (Narcan) boxes, which will be placed at nearly two dozen locations throughout the county in the coming weeks. Naloxone is a medication used to reverse opioid overdoses rapidly. With the increase in synthetic drugs across the country, there is a great need for this potentially lifesaving medication in our community.

So far in October, there have been dozens of opioid overdoses in St. Joseph County, but many lives have been saved because of naloxone being administered. **A life saved can be a life restored.** We are grateful to provide this resource to the county in an effort to support our community and ultimately encourage substance use treatment. Naloxone can be easily administered to a person experiencing an overdose but cannot be self-administered. The widespread availability of naloxone can make a difference for someone experiencing an overdose.

The locations for Saturday's DEA Drug Take-Back Day events include:

- St. Joseph County Jail
- Clay Fire Station #21
- Clay Fire Station #25
- Beacon Hospital of Bremen
- Mishawaka Fire #4

###

227 W. Jefferson Blvd. | 8th Fl. | South Bend, IN 46601
P: (574) 235-9750 | F: (574) 235-9960



@stjosephcountyhealth



@sjchealth