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Contact Kylie Mason

Phone 850-245-0150

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

Fight Opioid Crisis and Teen Vaping Epedemic by Participating in National Drug Take Back Day



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Moody and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Acting Administrator Timothy Shea are encouraging Floridians to help fight the opioid crisis and teen vaping epidemic by participating in the 19th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The event is an opportunity to help prevent drug abuse, addiction and overdoses by disposing of unused or expired prescription drugs or controlled substances. The DEA is also now accepting vaping products to help prevent youth vaping and keep addictive products from falling into the hands of minors.

Drug Take Back Day will take place this Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at locations across Florida and the nation.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “It is an honor to join DEA Acting Administrator Tim Shea as we ask all Floridians to help us fight the opioid crisis and youth vaping epidemic threatening our communities. By safely disposing of unused and expired prescription drugs, we can keep these controlled substances from ending up in the wrong hands—making our state and nation a safer place to live. Your actions today could prevent drug overdoses and save countless lives, maybe the life of someone close to you.”

DEA Acting Administrator Timothy Shea said, “The initiative—now in its tenth year—addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly

susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Together with our partners, we are not only holding National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, but offering other ways to dispose of unwanted, unused, and expired prescription medication."

The DEA coordinates drug take back days with state and local law enforcement biannually. Floridians can learn more about National Prescription Drug Take Back Day and find participating locations by visiting TakeBackDay.DEA.gov.

Since the fall of 2010, DEA and its law enforcement partners have collected nearly 12.7 million pounds of prescription medications. The scheduled April Take Back Day was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, DEA ran a public awareness campaign, *Secure Your Meds,* at that time. During the last Drug Take Back Day in October 2019, nearly 883,000 pounds of unused or expired prescription medication were turned in—over 36,000 pounds in Florida alone.

For more information and statistics on the October 2019 results, click here. To find local prescription drug disposal locations participating in Drug Take Back Day, click here.

The DEA does not accept vaping devices with lithium ion batteries. If the batteries cannot be removed, DEA recommends individuals visit stores that recycle lithium ion batteries.

For year-round Take Back locations and other tips to help fight opioid abuse, visit Attorney General Moody's statewide resource DoseOfRealityFL.com.

Earlier this month, Attorney General Moody announced recent advances in the fight to end the opioid epidemic in Florida as the nation continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. For more on those efforts, click here.