



DEC ANNOUNCES FIRST ROUND OF PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES, HOSPITALS AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES IN STATE'S PILOT DRUG 'TAKE-BACK' PROGRAM

State's Pharmaceutical Take-Back Pilot Program Will Improve Water Quality, Protect Public Health and Reduce Safety Risks

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced the first group of participants in the State's \$2 million Pilot Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program. Participants include 80 retail pharmacies, hospitals, and long-term care facilities across the state.

The Pilot Pharmaceutical Take Back Program will officially begin accepting waste medications in April 2018, when medication collection boxes are delivered to and installed by participating pharmacies. Until then, the public is encouraged to use existing medication collection box locations, which can be found by visiting the DEC website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67720.html> and clicking on NYS Medication Drop Box Locations link.

"By placing medication drop boxes in community pharmacies, hospitals and long-term care facilities, we are increasing opportunities for New Yorkers to properly and easily dispose of unwanted medications," said **DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos**. "Participants in New York's free drug take-back program are protecting their communities and the environment."

Under the drug take-back program, DEC will purchase medication collection boxes and pay for the disposal of waste pharmaceuticals collected by participating facilities for two years. Implementation of this pilot program will help improve water quality, protect public health by removing medications from home medicine cabinets, and reduce potential adverse impacts to fish and aquatic organisms.

The statewide Pilot Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program is funded through the Environmental Protection Fund. Resources from the fund will be used to cover the full cost of purchasing U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration-compliant medication drop boxes, as well as the cost of pick up, transport, and destruction of collected waste pharmaceuticals for a two-year period.

With technological advances in analytical techniques, it is now possible to detect low levels of drugs in surface water and groundwater. Some drugs pass largely unaltered through wastewater treatment plants and enter rivers and other waterways.

Flushed medications have been found in New York lakes, rivers, and streams and can negatively affect the waterways. A national study conducted in 1999 and 2000, by the U.S. Geological Survey found low levels of drugs such as antibiotics, hormones, contraceptives, and steroids in 80 percent of rivers and streams tested. Medications adversely affect fish and other aquatic wildlife and increase the development of drug-resistant bacteria.

In addition, there are concerns about unused pharmaceuticals getting into the wrong hands. The Center for Disease Control reports that one U.S. citizen dies every 16 minutes from a drug overdose and has declared this public health threat an epidemic.

The pilot program is open and is accepting applications. Retail pharmacies, hospitals, and long-term care facilities are encouraged to enroll online at the Pilot Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program web page on DEC's website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108213.html> or at on.ny.gov/rxpilot.

Senator Tom O'Mara, Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, said, "It's incredibly important to do anything and everything we can to complement and support the efforts of local law enforcement and other community leaders to combat prescription drug abuse. These efforts include National Prescription Drug Take- Back Days and other initiatives like this one to encourage the collection, and safe and responsible disposal of unused medications. New York's program to expand the number of permanent, locally based drop-off locations is a very positive addition to the state's ongoing, overall effort to protect our communities and local environments."

"Expired, unwanted and unused pharmaceutical drugs require proper disposal in order to prevent unintended environmental harm. Studies have detected widespread drug contamination in water. This pilot program will help keep these contaminants out of our water. It is always less expensive to prevent pollution than to have to pay to clean it up," said **Assemblyman Steve Englebright, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation**.

"By providing safe drug take-back locations to New York residents at convenient locations such as pharmacies, long-term care facilities, and grocery stores, this program will help address drug abuse and reduce water quality impacts throughout the state," said **Scott Cassel, chief executive officer and founder of the Product Stewardship Institute, which has promoted drug take-back nationwide for the past decade**. "However, sustainable funding from drug manufacturers – mandated through extended producer responsibility laws – is still needed to make these programs effective on a state or national scale."

"Pharmacists in New York look forward to continuing to work with DEC, the Legislature and the Governor to help our customers safely and conveniently dispose of unused medications," said **Roxanne Richardson, President, Pharmacists' Society of the State of New York**.

"We would like to thank the Department of Environmental Conservation for their collaborative approach to protecting public health and the environment. The Food Industry Alliance is very grateful for this unique opportunity to help ensure the adoption of best practices throughout the industry," **Maston Sansom, FIA Vice President**.

"This statewide program is a significant turning point in the battle to keep drugs out of our waters and out of the hands of potential abusers. We know the public will stop flushing unwanted drugs when safe disposal options are safe, convenient and free. CCE fought hard for the inclusion of funds in the state budget for this critical program and we are thrilled the DEC has crafted this ideal program and it will be starting in April. Protecting our waters and the public from risky exposure to prescription drugs should be everyone's goal. Prescription drugs should come from our pharmacists not from our faucets," said **Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment**.

List of Initial Awardees - Pilot Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program

| Regional Economic Development Councils | County | Awardee |
|---|---------------|---|
| Long Island | Nassau | Franklin Square Pharmacy Inc. 925 Hemptead Tpke Franklin Square, NY 11010 |
| Long Island | Nassau | Specialty Rx servicing Nassau Extended Care Center 1 Greenwich St Hempstead, NY 11550 |
| Long Island | Nassau | Smith Pharmacy 53 N Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801 |
| Long Island | Nassau | Savall Drug 393 Merrick Ave N Merrick, NY 11566 |
| Long Island | Suffolk | Specialty Rx servicing Ross Healthcare Center 839 Suffolk Ave Brentwood, NY 11717 |
| Long Island | Suffolk | 112 Pharmacy and Surgical 689 Medford Ave East Patchogue, NY 11772 |
| Long Island | Suffolk | Country Village Chemists 227 E Main St Huntington, NY 11743 |
| Long Island | Suffolk | Specialty Rx servicing The Hamptons Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing 64 County Rd 39 South Hampton, NY 11968 |
| Long Island | Suffolk | Southrifty Drug 54 Jagger Ln |

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| | | Southampton, NY 11968 |
| Long Island | Suffolk | Pharmscript NJ/St James Rehab 275 Moriches Rd St James, NY 11780 |
| Long Island | Suffolk | Stony Brook Student Health Services 1 Stadium Rd Stony Brook, NY 11794-3191 |
| New York City | Bronx | Arthur Avenue Pharmacy 2343 Arthur Ave Bronx, NY 10458 |
| New York City | Bronx | Mt. Carmel Pharmacy Inc. 705 E 187th St Bronx, NY 10458 |
| New York City | Bronx | RND Pharmacy Inc d/b/a Casa de Vida Pharmacy 52 W Burnside Ave Bronx, NY 10453 |
| New York City | Bronx | Specialty Rx servicing Throgs Neck Rehab and Nursing 707 Throgs Neck Expressway Bronx, NY 10465 |
| New York City | Kings | Euro Chemist Pharmacy 669 Manhattan Ave Brooklyn, NY 11222 |
| New York City | Kings | Jojan Pharma Inc. 121 Saint Nicholas Ave Brooklyn, NY 11237 |
| New York City | Kings | MRR Pharma Inc. 6220 11th Ave Brooklyn, NY 11219 |
| New York City | Kings | Vijan Pharma Inc. 312 Ralph Ave Brooklyn, NY 11233 |
| New York City | Kings | Lindenwood Rx Center servicing BRC Chemical |

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| | | Dependency Crisis Center 1380 Loring Ave Brooklyn, NY 11208 |
| New York City | New York | Life Pharma II Inc. 471 Lenox Ave New York, NY 10037 |
| New York City | Queens | Specialty Rx servicing Cypress Gardens Center 139-66 35th Ave Flushing, NY 11354 |
| New York City | Queens | Jan Pharma Inc. 311 Saint Nicholas Ave Ridgewood, NY 11385 |
| New York City | Richmond | Specialty Rx servicing Staten Island Care Center 200 Lafayette Ave Staten Island, NY 10301 |
| Mid-Hudson | Orange | Specialty Rx servicing Cold Spring Hills for Nursing and Rehab 378 Syosset-Woodbury Rd Woodbury, NY 11797 |
| Mid-Hudson | Rockland | Pharmscript NJ/Pine Valley 661 N Main St Spring Valley, NY 10977 |
| Mid-Hudson | Ulster | Dedrick's Pharmacy 190 Main St New Paltz, NY 12561 |
| Mid-Hudson | Ulster | Saugerties Pharmacy 250 Main St Saugerties, NY 12477 |
| Mid-Hudson | Ulster | Village Apothecary 79 Tinker St Woodstock, NY 12498 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Pharmscript NJ/Fieldhome 2300 Catherine St |

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| | | Cortlandt, NY 10567 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Dobbs Ferry Pharmacy 18 Cedar St Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Fishkill Pharmacy LLC dba The Medicine Shoppe 1004 Main St Bldg 554 Fishkill, NY 12524 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Trotta's West Street Pharmacy 15 Halstead Ave Harrison, NY 10528 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Taconic Pharmacy 3659 Lee Rd Jefferson Valley, NY 10535 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Larchmont Pharmacy 2141 Palmer Ave Larchmont, NY 10538 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Northern Westchester Rx Center 19 E Main St Mount Kisco, NY 10549 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | New Rochelle Prescription Center 551 Main St New Rochelle, NY 10801 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | HealthSmart Pharmacy 203 Main St Ossining, NY 10562 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Pharmscript NJ/Somers Manor 189 Route 100 Somers, NY 10589 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Sunshine Pharmacy 276 Main St White Plains, NY 10601 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Grassy Sprain Pharmacy |

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| | | 640 Tuckahoe Rd Yonkers, NY 10710 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Lemac Pharmacy 623 McLean Ave Yonkers, NY 10705 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Sunrise Pharmacy 2 Park Ave Yonkers, NY 10703 |
| Mid-Hudson | Westchester | Specialty Rx servicing Adira at Riverside Rehabilitation 120 Odell Ave Yonkers, NY 10701 |
| Capital Region | Albany | Marra's Pharmacy 217 Remsen St Cohoes, NY 12047 |
| Capital Region | Albany | Four Corners Pharmacy LLC 360 Delaware Ave Delmar, NY 12054 |
| Capital Region | Columbia | Hannaford Supermarket & Pharmacy 2967 Route 9 Ste 400 Valatie, NY 12184 |
| Capital Region | Rensselaer | Young's Pharmacy & General Store, LLC 1636 Burden Lake Rd Averill Park, NY 12018 |
| Capital Region | Schenectady | Hannaford Supermarket & Pharmacy 1400 Altamont Ave Schenectady, NY 12303 |
| Southern Tier | Delaware | Margaretville Hospital Pharmacy 42084 NY-28 Margaretville, NY 12455 |
| North Country | Clinton | Condo Pharmacy 28 Montcalm Ave Plattsburgh, NY 12901 |

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| North Country | Clinton | Cornerstone Drug & Gift, Inc. 72 Champlain St Rouses Point, NY 12979 |
| North Country | Essex | Elizabethtown Community Hospital 75 Park St Elizabethtown, NY 12932 |
| North Country | Essex | Keeseeville Pharmacy, Inc. 1730 Front St Keeseeville, NY 12944 |
| North Country | Essex | Adirondack Apothecary 4315 Main St Port Henry, NY 12974 |
| North Country | Franklin | Alice Hyde Medical Center 133 Park St Malone, NY 12953 |
| North Country | Warren | Stone's Pharmacy Inc. 1 Main St Lake Luzerne, NY 12846 |
| Mohawk Valley | Herkimer | The Medicine Shoppe 10 Central Ave Ilion, NY 13357 |
| Mohawk Valley | Lewis | Lewis County General Hospital 7785 N State St Lowville, NY 13367 |
| Mohawk Valley | Oneida | Harpell Chemists 12-65 150th St Whitestone, NY 11357 |
| Central New York | Onondaga | Pharmscript NY/Loretto 700 E Brighton Ave Syracuse, NY 13205 |
| Southern Tier | Tompkins | Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca 101 Dates Dr |

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| | | Ithaca, NY 14850 |
| Finger Lakes | Wayne | Galen's Health Mart Pharmacy 17 Sodus St Clyde, NY 14433 |
| Finger Lakes | Wyoming | Sinclair Pharmacy 75 N Main St Warsaw, NY 14569 |
| Western New York | Allegany | Alfred Pharmacy, Inc. 36 N Main St Alfred, NY 14802 |
| Western New York | Allegany | Friendship Pharmacy 9 W Main St Friendship, NY 14739 |
| Western New York | Cattaraugus | Vic Vena Pharmacy 1322 W State St Olean, NY 14760 |
| Western New York | Chautauqua | Heritage Village Rehab and Skilled Nursing Inc. 4570 Route 60 Gerry, NY 14740 |
| Western New York | Chautauqua | Heritage Green Rehab and Skilled Nursing Inc. 3023 Route 430 Greenhurst, NY 14742 |
| Western New York | Chautauqua | Heritage Park Rehab and Skilled Nursing Inc. 150 Prather Ave Jamestown, NY 14701 |
| Western New York | Erie | Alden Pharmacy 13203 Broadway St Alden, NY 14004 |
| Western New York | Erie | Tile Pharmacy 1031 Cleveland Dr Cheektowaga, NY 14225 |
| Western New York | Erie | Transit Hill Pharmacy |

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| | | 6344 Transit Rd Depew, NY 14043 |
| Western New York | Erie | Cy's Elma Pharmacy 2317 Bowen Rd Elma, NY 14059 |
| Western New York | Erie | Wanakah Pharmacy 4923 Lakeshore Rd Hamburg, NY 14075 |
| Western New York | Erie | Holland Pharmacy, Inc. 19 N Main St Holland, NY 14080 |
| Western New York | Niagara | Family Pharmacy Plus 320 S Transit St Lockport, NY 14094 |
| Western New York | Niagara | Moden-Giroux, Inc d/b/a Middleport Family Health Center 81 Rochester Rd Middleport, NY 14105-0188 |
| Western New York | Niagara | Summit Park Pharmacy 2578 Niagara Falls Blvd Niagara Falls, NY 14304 |
| Western New York | Niagara | Wurlitzer Family Pharmacy Inc. 521 Division St North Tonawanda, NY 14120 |

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