

Disposal of Medications

- All medications in out-of-home settings, no longer being used or expired, should ideally be returned to the child's parent/guardian for disposal.
 - Medications should not be sent home in a child's backpack, or stored within reach of children.
- You should notify the parent or guardian to pick up the medication, and document your contact with them on the medication log, or according to your program's policy.
- If the medicine has not been picked up within one week of the date of parent/guardian notification, dispose of the medication per program policy and the following disposal procedures:
 - Two people must witness disposal of medication. It can be two staff, or one staff person and your Child Care Health Consultant or School Nurse.
 - Document disposal on the Medication Log, in the "Comments" section, by recording the date, time, child's name, name of medicine, amount of medicine, the method of disposal (i.e., returned to parent/guardian, a medication collection site, or other method of disposal).
 - The witness must sign the Medication Log.
- According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, it is no longer recommended that even small quantities of medications be flushed down the drain.
 - Some medicines can disrupt or destroy the useful microorganisms in the sewage treatment system, and/or may pass through the system intact and potentially contaminate downstream water resources.

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 - Do not flush even small quantities of medications down the toilet or drain.
 - Have your witness sign the Medication Log.

- Procedures for properly disposing of medications:
 - For controlled substances:
 - Contact local law enforcement agency to take custody of the controlled medications and dispose of them.
 - If local law enforcement cannot or will not take custody, controlled medications should be rendered irretrievable (made to where no one could ingest them) and disposed in the trash.
 - mix them with an unpalatable substance, like used coffee grounds or kitty litter, in a zip top bag
 - wrap the bag in newspaper or otherwise conceal it
 - put this in the trash on the day it is to be picked up
 - Prescription bottles should be recycled or disposed separately after removal of personal information from their labels.
 - For non-controlled prescription or over-the-counter medications:
 - Take non- controlled medication to a medication collection site. Collection sites can be found at <http://takemedseriously.org/safe-disposal/disposal-options/> .
 - If a collection site is not available locally, non-controlled medications should be disposed of in the trash after being rendered irretrievable as described above for controlled substances.
 - Prescription bottles should be recycled or disposed separately after removal of personal information from their labels.
- Disposal of Asthma Medications
 - If there is still medication in the inhaler, the inhaler can be taken to a medication collection site.
 - If a collection site is not available locally, the inhaler should be double wrapped in a bag or newspaper.
 - Store the packaged inhaler away from children and pets.
 - Place the packaged inhaler in the trash on the day your garbage is collected or taken to the landfill.
- Disposal of unused or expired Epinephrine Auto-injectors:
 - An unused/expired epinephrine auto-injectors should ideally be returned to the child's parent/guardian for disposal.
 - Child care or school staff may be able to return the unused device to the prescribing pharmacy for disposal.
 - Call ahead to ensure that the location will dispose of the device for you.
 - Information about safe disposal of these devices can be found on the following web site: www.safeneedledisposal.org

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: Household Medications and Pharmaceuticals Retrieved 6/16/17 from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/household-medications-and-pharmaceuticals>

Safe Needle Disposal (2017) Retrieved 6/16/17 from www.safeneedledisposal.org

Colorado Medication Administration Training for Unlicensed Assistive Personnel in Public, Charter, Private and Parochial Schools, Child Care Centers, Preschools, School-Age Child Care, Residential Camps, Day Camps, and Family Child Care Homes, 9/2017, Sixth Edition