

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****04/27/2018**

TO: Grant County Providers &amp; Media

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

Heather Massart, Public Information Officer

Phone: 509-766-7960 ext. 16

## **National Drug Take Back Day**

### **8 Medication Disposal Sites in Grant County!**

GRANT COUNTY, WA –Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> is National Take Back your (unused and/ or expired) Medication day! Did you know you play an important role in preventing opioid addiction, overdose and substance misuse? Be sure to store all prescription medications in a safe secure location and dispose of unwanted or expired medication properly. It is best to return unwanted medications (opioids or over the counter meds) to a safe disposal take-back program. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than three out of five drug overdose deaths involve an opioid. Overdose deaths from opioids, including prescription opioids and heroin, have increased by more than five times since 1999. Overdoses involving opioids killed more than 42,000 people in 2016.

The Grant County Health District – Solid Waste Education Program, Moses Lake Healthy Youth Partnership 365, Quincy Partnership for Youth and Wahluke Community Coalition have worked with local law enforcement agencies and cities across the county to open secure medication take back drop boxes located at the police departments. The drop boxes have a variety of hours of operation with some being available to the public 24 hours a day. See attached flyer for operating times and locations. In 2016, **1,379 pounds** of medications were collected at the Grant County drop boxes. The police departments do not take inventory of the products or look at the prescription labels. They lift the bag out of the lock box, tie off the top, and safely incinerate the products along with other drugs held in police custody.

Opportunities to get involved in your community:

**Quincy Partnership for Youth**

Coordinator: Dayana Ruiz

Contact: [druiz@granthealth.org](mailto:druiz@granthealth.org)**Moses Lake Healthy Youth Partnership 365 (HYP 365)**

Coordinator: Bernadette Crawford

Contact: [bfcrawford@grantcountywa.gov](mailto:bfcrawford@grantcountywa.gov)**Wahluke Community Coalition**

Coordinator: Gigi Calaway

Contact: [gcalaway@wahluke.net](mailto:gcalaway@wahluke.net)

###

