



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

**For Immediate Release:** 12/28/2017

**Contact:** Erica Ringewald | (518) 402-8000  
Press Office | [PressOffice@dec.ny.gov](mailto:PressOffice@dec.ny.gov)

## **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***

***Retail Pharmacies, Hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities Encouraged to Apply for  
Second Round of Pilot Program***

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](http://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

<b>Regional Economic Development Councils</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Awardee</b>
Long Island	Nassau	Franklin Square Pharmacy Inc. 925 Hempstead 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

		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

		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

		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

		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

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	Keeseville Pharmacy, Inc. 1730 Front St Keeseville, 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



		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

		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

###

Connect with DEC on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#), and [Instagram](#)