

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## New medication drop box now available 24/7 in Eau Claire

*Located in Eau Claire County Jail lobby, drop box accepts unused or expired medications for safe disposal*

**Eau Claire, WI, July 12, 2024** — The Eau Claire County community can now use a new medication drop box to freely and easily dispose of their unwanted or expired medications. The new drop box is available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The drop box is located in the lobby of the Eau Claire County Jail, 710 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Eau Claire. Anyone can enter the jail lobby to use the box between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To access the lobby after 4:30 p.m. or on weekends, press a button at the jail's main entrance to be buzzed in by a dispatcher.

### What the drop box accepts:

- Prescription medications
- Prescription patches
- Over-the-counter medications, including vitamins
- Prescription ointments
- Pet medications

**Dropoff is convenient, anonymous, and free!** Just gather any medication you no longer need and remove or cover up personal information on the prescription label. Make sure to close the pill bottle or packaging to avoid spilling. Pull the handle on the front of the drop box, place your unwanted medications inside, and close the door.

It's critically important to dispose of medication you're no longer using, says Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, Public Health Specialist with the Health Department. "When you keep unused medication in your medicine cabinet or bathroom closet, it means other people, kids, or pets are more likely to find and misuse it – which could lead to an overdose or accidental poisoning. Disposing of your medication could help save a life."

The drop box is funded by the Opioid Abatement Efforts by Law Enforcement grant. "With the introduction of this new location for a medication drop box, we're strengthening our commitment to harm reduction efforts for the people of Eau Claire County," says Sheriff Dave Riewestahl. "This initiative complements existing efforts, and now allows for accessibility 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This space allows for responsible disposal, which contributes to a safer and healthier environment for us all."



The medication drop box is for individual use only. It will not accept medications from businesses for mass disposal.

To see a short video demonstrating how to easily dispose of medications at the drop box, visit [bit.ly/dropboxECjail](http://bit.ly/dropboxECjail) (video available in English, Spanish, and Hmong). In addition to this new drop box, there are 10 other permanent medication drop boxes in Eau Claire County, available year-round. To find a drop box near you, visit [www.ehealthalliance.org/resources](http://www.ehealthalliance.org/resources) and scroll to “Drug take-back locations in Eau Claire County.”

The new drop box sits next to the harm reduction vending machine, which [dispenses free Narcan nasal spray and fentanyl test strips](#), in the jail lobby.

To find more data on medication disposal and the impact of opioids on our community, visit the new [Eau Claire County Opioid Dashboard](#). Since 2012, community members have safely disposed of over 41,500 pounds of medication through National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day events and permanent medication drop boxes in Eau Claire County.

*The Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, Eau Claire County Department of Human Services, Criminal Justice Services, and the Eau Claire City-County Health Department collaborated to apply for and facilitate a \$350,000 state grant to fight the ongoing opioid crisis. Eau Claire County recognizes the urgent need for innovative strategies to address this crisis. Learn more on [Eau Claire County's website](#).*

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