



**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
262 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920  
(908)204-2520 Fax (908)204-3075 [www.bernardshealth.org](http://www.bernardshealth.org)

Contact: Kaitlin Kordusky  
Community Program Coordinator  
(908) 204-2523  
[KKordusky@bernards.org](mailto:KKordusky@bernards.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE AND BERNARDS TOWNSHIP POLICE  
DEPARTMENT TO HOLD MEDICATION  
DROP OFF DRIVE THRU**

**Basking Ridge, NJ (February 8, 2016)** -- The Bernards Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse and Bernards Township Police Department are holding the Township's third annual Medication Drop Off Drive Thru on Saturday, March 19th from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. Residents are invited to drive up to the Police Department front driveway and drop off their unused medications without having to leave their vehicle. This year the program has been extended for an extra hour for residents.

“This program is also in response to the heroin/opiate crisis occurring in not only New Jersey, but the entire country. Over the past several years there has been a growing trend known as the ‘pills to heroin’ epidemic where people who are addicted to prescription pain killers and other opiates move on to heroin because of the cheapness and availability of the drug. If we can keep the unused medications from sitting around in people’s cabinets, the better chance we can keep heroin out of our community”, says Community Program Coordinator and Municipal Alliance Grant Coordinator, Kaitlin Kordusky.

Oftentimes when people are prescribed medications by their doctors, they pick up the medications, use them until they feel well, and then unused medicine sits in the bathroom drawer or medicine cabinet for long periods of time. While the medicine sitting locked up isn't harmful by itself, the possibility of what can happen when prescription medication gets into the wrong hands can lead to harmful outcomes. Either someone else

finds the medication and uses it in the way it was not intended, or people try to dispose of the medications improperly.

According to Somerset County Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano, “Leftover medicines pose serious safety and health threats and also raise environmental concerns. Prescription-drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the United States. Among youth, seven of the top 10 abused substances are pharmaceuticals. Additionally, medicines flushed down the drain or toilet can contaminate bodies of water, harm wildlife and end up in drinking-water supplies.”

Medications can be dropped off in their original packages or bottles. Participants should black out or remove labels with names on all prescription packages or bottles. These medications can be unused, expired, over the counter, or prescription. Only solid medications, pills, patches, inhalers or similar objects can be accepted. Liquids, medical waste, oxygen tanks, needles, and syringes cannot be accepted. Participants are welcome to put multiple medication bottles or boxes into a bag or hand them over individually.

Additional info can be found at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/meddrop> .

Signs will be posted at 1 Collyer Lane on the day of the Drive Thru. Participants should follow the signs to the Police Department where Municipal Alliance members will be standing. Please note that the Drop Off Box that is located at the Bernards Township Police Department is always open for drop off Monday – Friday from 7:00 am until 4:30 pm. To drop off at other times, please call the Bernards Township non-emergency line at (908) 766-1122.

The mission of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse is to provide consultation, programs, training and resources to members of the Bernards Township community with the goal of preventing and reducing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs through education, support of events and programs and presence in the community. For more information, visit [www.bernardsalliance.org](http://www.bernardsalliance.org).

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