



## Hennepin County News

Public Affairs • 612-348-3848  
300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0011



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### **News conference Monday will lay out details, restrictions of Hennepin medicine collection event Sheriffs from six counties also holding events will attend**

**What:** Sheriffs from six counties and representatives from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and Minnesota Department of Public Safety will attend a Hennepin County news conference **Monday, Sept. 20**, to provide details about Hennepin's first unwanted medicine (prescription and over-the-counter) collection event for Hennepin residents in St. Louis Park Saturday, Sept. 25. Similar events in other counties and nationwide will provide safe and legal disposal of waste medicines in a manner that protects the environment. There will be restrictions for both residents and media because controlled substances are involved.

**Who:** Hennepin County commissioners Jan Callison and Gail Dorfman  
Sheriff Rich Stanek, Hennepin County  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge Daniel Moran, Drug Enforcement Administration, Minneapolis-St. Paul Office  
Commissioner Michael Campion, Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
Sheriff Bob Fletcher, Ramsey County  
Sheriff Bruce Andersohn, Anoka County  
Sheriff Dave Bellows, Dakota County  
Sheriff Bill Hutton, Washington County  
Sheriff Joel Brott, Sherburne County  
Col. Mark Dunaski, Minnesota State Patrol  
Hennepin County Environmental Services  
Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health  
Mayor Jeff Jacobs, St. Louis Park

**When:** Monday, Sept. 20, at 1 p.m.

**Where:** Hennepin County Public Safety Facility (aka Hennepin County jail)  
Training Room, second floor, 401 S. Fourth Ave., downtown Minneapolis  
Note: There is a metal detector/weapons screening area prior to entering the building.

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## Medicine collection event news conference/2

**Details:** Hennepin's medicine collection event Sept. 25 in **St. Louis Park** is being held to coincide with the Drug Enforcement Administration's national "Drug Takeback Day."

Medications in the home have become a problem for a number of reasons:

- Unwanted, unused medications stored at home pose safety and health threats and can lead to poisoning or abuse.
- Poisoning is the second leading cause of accidental deaths in Minnesota, and prescription drug abuse is a growing problem.
- Among young people, seven of the top 10 abused substances are pharmaceuticals – many of them taken from the medicine cabinets of family and friends.
- Some 40 percent of teens believe prescription medicines are "much safer" than illegal drugs.
- Medications are a major law enforcement problem because some of the drugs are controlled substances, and it is very difficult to legally dispose of them.
- Disposal of unwanted medications also raises environmental concerns. Medicines flushed down the drain or disposed of in landfills can contaminate bodies of water, harm wildlife and end up in drinking water supplies.

The news conference will include information on what can and can't be brought to the collection, how residents should package medications, and restrictions for residents and media because of controlled substance and confidentiality issues.

We appreciate the efforts of local media to help educate the public about this important issue. **Media who attend the medicine collection event are asked to follow guidelines designed to ensure their safety and the safety of the public.** Some of the guidelines include:

- In general, media and members of the public are not allowed access to the event on foot. Media will be asked to remain in a designated media area, which has a view of the collection activities.
- Media will not be allowed to interview residents who are waiting in line. Residents will be asked if they wish to be interviewed – if so, they will be directed to drive to the nearby media area.
- We are hoping to provide pool video and still photos of the collection area. We will update media if this takes place.
- Media may contact Hennepin County Sheriff's Office PIO Lisa Kiava (612-919-5918) with questions, concerns or special requests.

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### **Medicine collection event news conference/3**

For more information, including event guidelines and details about materials accepted, visit [www.hennepin.us/medicine](http://www.hennepin.us/medicine) or call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-3777, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. A recording will provide information after hours.

For information on other collection events, visit the DEA website: [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).

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*Look for more news on the Hennepin County website – [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us).*