

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Suzanna Cisneros, [suzanna.cisneros@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:suzanna.cisneros@ttuhsc.edu)  
(806) 743-7605

### **What's In Your Medicine Cabinet?**

*TTUHSC School of Pharmacy to host Medication Cleanout™*

Is your medicine cabinet filled with prescriptions or medications you no longer use? When old medications are left to collect dust, they become potential sources of poisoning to young children or may be accessed by teens experimenting with drugs. They also are a hazard to adults and elderly as they increase the risk of choosing the wrong bottle or taking medications that are no longer required.

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Pharmacy's Texas Panhandle Poison Center along with the Lubbock County VOICES Coalition and the Texas Tech University Police Department will host a Medication Cleanout™ from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27 at the Texas Tech Physicians Medical Pavilion, 3601 Fourth St.

Jeanie Jaramillo-Stametz, Pharm.D., director of the Texas Panhandle Poison Center, encourages Lubbock and surrounding area residents to clean out their medicine cabinets and bring in any unused, expired or unnecessary medications or sharps for proper disposal. The program also provides disposal services for those who use syringes or sharps. For instance, those who take allergy shots or insulin injections can bring their sharps for appropriate disposal as well.

"Flushing or throwing old medications into the trash may contaminate the environment, pollute our drinking and ground water and harm aquatic creatures," Jaramillo-Stametz said. "Also, the abuse of prescription medications continues to be an epidemic in the U.S. Medication Cleanout™ is a proactive approach to safeguard our communities by providing a free and convenient way for people to dispose of these medications in a legal, environmentally sound and convenient manner."

To date, more than 50,000 pounds of unneeded medicine and sharps have been disposed of properly through the TTUHSC Medication Cleanout™ program. A drive-thru, drop-off format will allow residents to dispose of their medications with the added convenience of not leaving their cars. Yard signs will be posted along Fourth Street to help drivers locate the drive-thru path. Medications should be in their original containers. Because of environmental restrictions, only medications from households can be accepted. Loads of medications from clinics, pharmacies and other businesses are not allowed.

Office of Communications

For more information about the Medication Cleanout™, call (806) 414-9495 or visit [www.MedicationCleanout.com](http://www.MedicationCleanout.com).