

HC DrugFree

HC DrugFree: Keeping Howard County *in the KNOW!*
...knowledge is power, so just say KNOW



"The magic of autumn is the quiet transformation of every ordinary moment into something beautiful."

- Unknown

Get Your Pet's Meds and Sharps Ready!



Today is World Mental Health Awareness Day

Today, organizations and individuals around the world are highlighting the vital connection between mental health and work. Safe, healthy working environments can act as a protective factor for mental health. Unhealthy conditions including stigma, discrimination, and exposure to risks like harassment and other poor working conditions, can pose significant risks,

affecting mental health, overall quality of life and consequently participation or productivity at work. With 60% of the global population in work, urgent action is needed to ensure work prevents risks to mental health and protects and supports mental health at work. [Learn more](#)

HCPSS Parent Academy



On September 25, HC DrugFree's team joined Howard County Public System School staff, parents/guardians and other family members at the 2024-2025 Parent Academy Kick-off held at Wilde Lake High School. Superintendent William J. Barnes shared his vision for the upcoming school year and described the school system's three-pronged approach to ensure success for all students, which include an Equity Framework, Strategic Priorities and Focus Areas. Learn more about [HCPSS Family and Community Involvement](#).

Sponsor HC DrugFree This Fiscal Year!

Become a [Sponsor or Friend of HC DrugFree](#) so we can continue providing FREE programs and resources to the Howard County community. We appreciate your financial support.

[Donate Now](#)

Or mail your **donation** to HC DrugFree's office:

HC DrugFree
5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206
Wilde Lake Village Center
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Adult and Student Volunteers Needed!!

Volunteers Needed



Register
Today!
HC DrugFree
Empowering the Community



It truly takes a village to make our Medication and Sharps Disposal Event happen and we are seeking volunteers for Saturday October 26 starting at approximately 9:15 a.m. Positions available for students, adults, and **medically-trained adults** (pharmacists, EMTs, nurses, doctors, etc.)

We have jobs for everyone: young or young-at-heart, those wanting to stand or sit (please feel free to bring a chair), and introverted or extroverted. Plug into our great community with your family/friends or join us solo and make new friends!

Reminder: **student volunteers are eligible to receive Community Service Hours** with mandatory additional forms submitted prior to event. We encourage adults to accompany students.

Thank you for investing your time, energy, and heart into this community event.
[Volunteer today](#)

Share Your Tables, Canopies, and Talents



Drive-Thru Medication & Sharps Disposal Event Saturday, October 26 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Safely dispose of medication, needles, syringes, EpiPens, inhalers & more!

Wilde Lake Village Center
5305 Village Center Drive
parking lot by CA Swim Center

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community
hcdrugfree.org



Message provided by HC DrugFree, Howard County Police & Howard County Health Department. Funding from MDH/BHA & SAMHSA.

In addition to volunteers of all ages, we are in need of tables, canopies and photographers for our Drive-Thru Medication & Sharps Disposal Event on Saturday, October 26. If you are willing to share an item or take photos on that day, please [register here](#). Thank you.

Youth Need to Know

Research shows that a growing percentage, and the vast majority, of American youth are choosing not to use substances. Yet both youth and adults overwhelmingly overestimate the number of 12-18-year olds who use substances. They believe that substance use is more common than it actually is. The truth is that most youth make healthy choices and do not use substances. Talk with the youth in your life. When kids think "everyone is doing it" (no matter what the "it"), they are more likely to engage in risky behaviors.

Good Samaritan Law

The purpose of Maryland's Good Samaritan Law is to encourage any person, regardless of age, who sees a person (or people) having a medical emergency brought on by drugs and/or alcohol, to seek medical assistance by calling 911, without the fear of arrest or prosecution for:

- Possessing or using a controlled dangerous substance
- Possessing or using drug paraphernalia
- Providing alcohol to minors

Calling 911 will NOT affect your parole or probation status. The Good Samaritan Law also protects the person (or people) experiencing the emergency medical overdose from the same.

The law does not protect persons witnessing the medical emergency if they're not helping with the medical emergency. The law will not protect against arrest for open warrants or other crimes not listed above.

To learn more in English and Spanish, click on the Good Samaritan Law Fact Sheets:

- [Good Samaritan Law Fact Sheet \(English\)](#)
- [Datos sobre la Ley del Buen Samaritano \(Spanish Language Good Samaritan Law Fact Sheet\)](#)



[Watch Video](#)

Smartphone Bans in Schools

With the increase of social media usage by students during class, certain states have begun banning cell phones during school. Although they can be brought to school, phones must be placed in pouches, buckets, or kept off in their backpacks. This way, they are accessible in the case of emergency but not tempting for students to check them.

Maryland does not yet have a state-wide ruling on cell phones during school. However, some schools or teachers have implemented their own individual policies to reduce social media-related distractions during class.

Learn more by watching this video from The Today Show:



Watch Video

HCPSS Bullying Policy

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all students. Preventing bullying is an important part of this goal. [HCPSS Policy 9460](#) states that bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation are prohibited in HCPSS.

Save the Date! Medication and Sharps Drive-Thru Collection

DrugFree's next drive-thru Medication and Sharps collection will be held on Saturday, October 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot near the Swim Center and Slayton House. [Download and Print Flier](#)

Updates will be shared in this newsletter, on social media, and on our [website](#).

Medication & Sharps Disposal

Saturday October 26 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Safely dispose of:

- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Sharps (syringes, needles, EpiPens, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Pet Medication
- Vape devices (with batteries removed)
- Inhalers
- And more!

Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot
5305 Village Center Drive, Columbia 21044

We are giving away 25
Medication Lockboxes!



First come, first served. Limit 1 per vehicle.

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hcdrugfree.org

Part-Time Help Wanted



Work With Us!

**Make a difference in
Howard County.**

HCDrugFree

HC DrugFree is looking for self-motivated Howard County professionals with a heart for people of all ages in our great community. All candidates must pass a background check and possess strong organizational skills, writing skills, and computer skills.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

What Do You Think?

Please take our 2-second survey to let us know what you think of the content provided in this newsletter!

[Take Our Survey](#)

Resources

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:

Marylanders who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis should call or text 988. Learn more at 988.maryland.gov. Maryland veterans and their loved ones can call 988 and press 1 to transfer to the Veterans Crisis Line. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for LGBTQIA+ support.



[Additional Resources](#)

For more information, contact

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