

# HC DrugFree

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

"Spring: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be."

-Unknown

## Save the Date

April 14: [HoCo Student Film Submission Deadline](#)

April 16: [Parenting Strategies: How to Talk about Drug Use in Popular Media](#)

April 27: [Medication and Sharps Drive-Thru Collection](#)

May 3: [HoCo Student Film Festival](#)

## HoCo Teens Share Valuable Insights



[Watch Video](#)

In March, teens on HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) shared their mini TED Talk videos - that we call TAC Talks - to allow adults and other youth to know what was on their minds and to share their wisdom with middle schoolers concerned about transitioning to high school.

The teens presented "insider information" for parents, educators, middle

school students, and their high school peers during this special student-led community program. This was a unique opportunity for community members to listen to the real experiences of HoCo youth to better understand and support them. Thank you to all who attended the live event and those who will watch this video. A special thank you to all the teens who created videos and participated. [Learn more](#)

## April is Alcohol Awareness Month

April is Alcohol Awareness Month — a time to raise awareness of alcohol use and misuse.

Find helpful resources on alcohol use & misuse prevention, treatment and recovery support services that you and your community can use to support those who may be struggling. [Learn more](#)



## How To Talk to Kids about Substance Misuse in the Media

Depictions of drug and alcohol use is widespread in current media, including shows often viewed by teenagers such as Stranger Things, The Queen's Gambit on Netflix and HBO's Euphoria. Given that research indicates that exposure to these messages increases teenage substance use, what can parents do to protect their children? Join Dr. Weiner for an exploration of the psychological impact of drug use in media, as well as actionable strategies for parents and caregivers to help teenagers navigate this complicated social and cultural terrain. [Learn more & register](#)

A flyer for a virtual event titled "Parenting Strategies and How to Talk about Drug Use in Popular Media". It is in partnership with HC DrugFree. The event is on April 16, 7-8:30 p.m. The flyer features a photo of Dr. Weiner and a QR code for registration. The text on the flyer includes: "In Partnership with HC DrugFree", "Parenting Strategies and How to Talk about Drug Use in Popular Media", "April 16, 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual Event", "Depictions of drug and alcohol use is widespread in current media, including shows often viewed by teenagers such as Stranger Things, The Queen's Gambit on Netflix and HBO's Euphoria. Given that research indicates that exposure to these messages increases teenage substance use, what can parents do to protect their children?", "Join Dr. Weiner for an exploration of the psychological impact of drug use in media, as well as actionable strategies for parents and caregivers to help teenagers navigate this complicated social and cultural terrain.", "Howard County Office of the Local Children's Board", "Register now online! https://bit.ly/HCC-Drug-Free", "For questions, contact LaToia Williams, lwilliams@howardcountymd.gov 410-313-4235 (ext. 20046)", and "If you need this document in an alternative format, call the 410-313-4235 (ext. 20046). Should you need accommodations to participate, contact us at least one week in advance."

## HoCo Students: Get Involved

HC DrugFree invites **all Howard County students in grades 8-12** to join our Teen Advisory Council (TAC)! TAC members attend our monthly meetings and serve as student ambassadors in their schools and in the community.

### Why join TAC?

- **Earn Community Service Hours**
- Gain experience for job & college applications
- Volunteer opportunities year round
- Be a leader and role model in Howard County!

TAC Members are encouraged to volunteer for our Medication and Sharps

Disposal Event on **Saturday, April 27** to earn Community Service Hours. More information is below. There will be no other April TAC meeting or event. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 13** from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. [Learn more & register](#)

[Learn More about Joining TAC](#)

## Drive-Thru Medication & Sharps Collection



**Saturday, April 27 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Please join HC DrugFree and our partners for our convenient twice-a-year drive-thru medication and sharps disposal event in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot near the Swim Center.

Bring prescription and over-the-counter medications, needles, syringes, Epi-Pens, vitamins, vapes, pet medications and more. Meds will be guarded and transported by the Howard County Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration. [Learn more & volunteer](#)

### Medication & Sharps Disposal Convenient Drive-Thru Event

**Saturday April 27 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



#### Safely dispose of:

- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Sharps (syringes, needles, EpiPens, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Pet medication
- Vapes without batteries
- Inhalers
- And more!

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

#### Volunteers Needed

Seeking students, adults, and medically-trained adults. Spend some time making a difference in Howard County. Community service hours available for students.

#### Medication Lockbox Giveaway!

We have 100 medication lockboxes to give away for FREE!

\$44 value. First come, first served. Limit 1 per vehicle.



[HCDrugFree.org](https://www.hcdrugfree.org)

Funded by the Howard County Health Department, MDH, SAMHSA, and Howard County Police. Medication Lockboxes provided by the Howard County Public School System.

## Be Our Friend

Please consider becoming a [Friend of HC DrugFree](#). Your support shows funders that you value the work that we do. Thank you for your continued support of the important work we do at HC DrugFree!

[Donate Now](#)

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

HC DrugFree

## 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](https://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.



### Free Narcan Training:

The Howard County Health Department offers a free training so you can be prepared in case of an opioid overdose. Sign up for your free training and Narcan kit today: [Learn more](#)



## [Additional Resources](#)

For more information, contact

Joan Webb Scornaienchi  
Executive Director  
HC DrugFree  
5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206  
Wilde Lake Village Center  
Columbia, MD 21044  
[Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org)  
[www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org)





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