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## **National Drug Take Back Day Recognized in Central Virginia**

**Lynchburg, VA** – Fatal prescription (Rx) opioid overdoses continue to be the leading category of drugs causing or contributing to death in Virginia with 2,223 fatalities reported in 2021, according to the Virginia Department of Health, setting a record for a second year in a row. In response, local law enforcement agencies are teaming up with communities on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to reduce barriers in safe medication disposal, a crucial public safety and public health issue.

This year, Horizon Behavioral Health continues to support this effort to reduce environmental risks that can lead to accidental and intentional overdose by offering free storage and disposal resources as well as Rapid REVIVE! Overdose Response Training on-site and free Narcan. Additional organizations supporting this year's Drug Take Back Day include Central Virginia Addiction and Recovery Resources (CVARR), the Central Virginia Health Department (CVHD), Lynchburg Water Resources, and the Bedford Regional Water Authority who also recognize the dangers improper disposal presents to our local waterways and environment.

“When it comes to minimizing risks for substance misuse,” shares Melissa Lucy, Horizon CEO, “the effort starts in the home. Safe storage, proper disposal, education, especially among adolescents, young adults, and older adults, is key in preventing overdose deaths due to prescription medications. This initiative would not be possible without the support of community partners who dedicate their time and resources to this valuable effort.”

On Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, seven medication drop box locations will be available throughout the community for residents to dispose of expired, unwanted, or unused medications as well as share valuable resources to safeguard their home.

### Altavista

- Altavista Police Department, 510 7th Street, Altavista, VA, 24517

### Amherst

- Hometown Pharmacy, 196 Amelon Square Shopping Center, Madison Heights, VA 24572

### Appomattox

- The Farmer's Bank of Appomattox, 169 Old Courthouse Road, Appomattox VA 24522

### Bedford

- Tractor Supply Co, 1128 E Lynchburg Salem TPKE, Bedford VA, 24523

### The City of Lynchburg

- Horizon Behavioral Health, 2215 Langhorne Road, Lynchburg VA 24501
- Kroger, 2012 Wards Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502
- Kroger, 4119 Boonsboro Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503

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*Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 53 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to approximately 12,000 adults and children, addressing problems with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.*