

SECURE MEDICINE RETURN ORDINANCE

Regulations Requiring Safe Medicine Disposal

WHEREAS, residents of Kitsap County benefit from the authorized use of prescription and non-prescription, or over-the-counter, medicines. The misuse and abuse of unused prescription medicines in the home has emerged as an epidemic in recent years; and

WHEREAS, home medicine cabinets are the most common source of prescription drugs that are diverted and misused. Studies find that about 70% of those who abuse prescription medicines obtain the drugs from family members or friends, usually for free. About 2/3 of teens say it's easy to obtain prescription opioid and stimulants. Prescription and non-prescription medicines are the leading cause of poisonings in the home, with children and seniors especially at risk; and

WHEREAS, unused, expired and leftover medicines that accumulate in homes increase risks of drug abuse, overdoses, and preventable poisonings. A system for the proper disposal of unused or expired medicines is an element of a comprehensive strategy to prevent prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, most prescription and non-prescription medicines are household hazardous wastes under WAC 173-303, *Dangerous Waste Regulations* and KCBH Ordinance 2010-1, *Solid Waste Regulations*; and

WHEREAS, household hazardous waste are prohibited from being disposed into the solid waste stream in Kitsap County. Flushing medicines down toilets and sinks is an inappropriate disposal practice because wastewater treatment facilities are incapable of treating pharmaceutical compounds; and

WHEREAS, existing systems for collection of unused and expired medicines is overburdened and not convenient or equitable for all residents. Public funding sources to operate and maintain a proper collection system are not sustainable; and

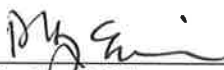
WHEREAS, medicine take-back programs provide secure collection and environmentally sound destruction of unwanted medicines, protecting both public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Kitsap Public Health Boards finds it is in the interest of public health to establish a county-wide, secure medicine return program providing convenient and equitable access for all the county's residents that is financed and operated by drug producers selling medicines in or into Kitsap County for residential use. Although producers may not charge a specific point-of-sale or point-of-collection fee, the Board does not otherwise intend to preclude producers from recouping the costs of their program through other means, including allocating costs to the prices of their covered drugs in Kitsap County; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, a growing number of local governments, in Washington, California and Illinois have enacted ordinances requiring drug producers to design, fund and operate secure and convenient medicine take back programs to safely collect and dispose of unwanted medicines; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that the Kitsap Public Health Board Ordinance 2016-02, Secure Medicine Return Regulations, as set forth below and hereby incorporated by reference, be adopted and be effective immediately.

APPROVED: December 6, 2016



Mayor Becky Erickson, Chair
Kitsap Public Health Board