



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Erie County Health Department Takes Significant Steps in Combatting Opioid Crisis with Community Outreach and Training

Sandusky, OH, April 28, 2025 – The Erie County Health Department (ECHD) demonstrated its unwavering commitment to addressing the opioid crisis through a series of impactful community events and a vital training initiative on Saturday, April 26th. These efforts aimed to increase access to life-saving resources and educate the community on overdose prevention.

ECHD partnered with local law enforcement agencies to host two successful drug take back events, providing safe and anonymous disposal options for unwanted medications. At the Milan Police Department, in collaboration with the Erie County Sheriff's Office, 13.2 pounds of medications were collected, preventing potential misuse and diversion. The second take-back event, held at the Erie County Fairgrounds in partnership with the Perkins Police Department, yielded 15.42 pounds of collected medications. A total of 114 Deterra drug disposal bags, which safely deactivate and dispose of medications at home were distributed between the two events. And, at ECHD's "Live Longer, Live Better" community event 130 Deterra bags and 37 naloxone overdose reversal kits were distributed, empowering seniors with the tools to prevent accidental overdose deaths.

ECHD also conducted a comprehensive naloxone training for 126 staff members of the Jet Express. Employees were trained on how to recognize signs of an overdose and how to administer naloxone. A total of 96 naloxone kits were distributed at the event. ECHD partnered with Brightview Health for this event. The Jet Express plays a vital role in transporting thousands of visitors to the Lake Erie Islands, making this training a significant step in ensuring the safety of both residents and tourists throughout the boating season.

"We are incredibly proud of the collaborative efforts undertaken on Saturday to address the opioid crisis in Erie County," said Pete Schade, Erie County Health Commissioner. "Providing our community with the resources and knowledge to prevent overdose is paramount. The partnerships with the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Milan Police Department, Perkins Police Department, and the Jet Express are invaluable in reaching a wider audience and making a tangible difference."

These initiatives were funded by several ECHD grant programs and underscore the Erie County Health Department's ongoing commitment to the health and safety of its community through proactive prevention strategies and collaborative partnerships.

About the Erie County Health Department

The ECHD's mission is to promote and improve the health and safety of the communities and environment within Erie County while preventing disease through essential public health services. ECHD operates the Erie County Community Health Center, the Erie County Detox, Kaptur Rogowski House, an inpatient crisis center, and Compass Point, an adult day facility. For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com.

Media Contact:

Pete Schade, Health Commissioner
Erie County Health Department
(567)867-5112 | pschade@echdohio.org | www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com