

## PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

December 8, 2016

### **Kitsap Public Health Board approves secure medicine return regulations**

*Program to be funded by pharmaceutical manufacturers*

KITSAP COUNTY, WA— The Kitsap Public Health Board unanimously approved an ordinance establishing secure medicine return regulations in Kitsap County at their board meeting Tuesday. The regulations will make prescription medicine disposal safe, available, convenient and free for Kitsap residents by:

- Providing convenient drop-off locations for unused medications throughout Kitsap County at no cost to residents;
- Providing an option for homebound residents to dispose of unused medicine by mail at no cost;
- Requiring drug manufacturers to pay for these options.

It will be nine months to a year before the program is implemented in Kitsap County. Pharmaceutical companies have six months to submit their proposed stewardship plans to the Kitsap Public Health District. Once approved, the pharmaceutical companies have three months to implement their plan. Collection locations could be operational by September 2017.

The Kitsap County regulations are consistent those recently implemented in King and Snohomish Counties which should create efficiencies and expedite implementation, said John Kiess, Environmental Health Director. Pierce County also approved similar regulations at their December 7 Board of Health meeting.

Additional information, including full text of the regulations, is available [on-line](#).

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