



**SOUTHWESTERN PA HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE TASK FORCE**

ADMINISTERED BY:  
Pennsylvania Resources Council  
64 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
[www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 2, 2010

**CONTACT:** George Mihalovich,  
Task Force Co-Chair  
[georgemihalovich@gmail.com](mailto:georgemihalovich@gmail.com)  
724-745-5891

## **HHW TASK FORCE TO SPONSOR SECOND ALLEGHENY COUNTY PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION EVENT**

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield presenting sponsor of  
October 23 event in Mt. Lebanon to collect unwanted  
prescription, over-the-counter and veterinary medications

In response to the success of its first pharmaceutical collection event earlier this year, the Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force is partnering with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield to host a collection of unwanted pharmaceuticals (prescription, over-the-counter and veterinary medications) on Saturday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building, 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228.

The event will provide Pennsylvania residents with the opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted or expired pharmaceutical products, including both controlled and non-controlled substances. A licensed contractor, law enforcement officials and licensed pharmacists will be on site to ensure all materials collected are handled in accordance with federal, state and local laws.

“Improper disposal, such as flushing unwanted pills down the drain or throwing them out in the trash poses serious dangers to the environment,” according to Dave Mazza, regional director of the Pennsylvania Resources Council, which administers the Task Force. “Pharmaceuticals can end up in our local waters where they pose a hazard to people and wildlife.”

“Our goal is to increase public awareness about the importance of properly disposing unused pharmaceuticals,” said Eric Culley, PharmD, MBA, manager of clinical pharmacy services at Highmark. “Medications are intended to help improve the health of members of our community, and we want to help ensure that they are discarded in a safe and nontoxic manner.”

Mazza added, “On a national level, estimates point to upwards of 200 million pounds of pharmaceutical waste being generated each year, so the need for collection events is evident. After collecting nearly 700 pounds of material at the May event, the Task Force is pleased to partner with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield to sponsor Allegheny County’s second collection as a means to educate the public and to provide a viable option for disposing of these potentially hazardous products.”

A participant fee of \$3 per person will be charged at the October 23 event and pre-registration is required. To register online and for additional event information, visit [www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org) or call 412-488-7452.

This pharmaceutical collection is sponsored by the Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in partnership with Allegheny County Health Department, Municipality of Mt. Lebanon, UPMC and other private and public sector partners.

###