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For Immediate Release

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State Board of Health Recognizes Nebraska MEDS Program

Lincoln—The State Board of Health has given an award to the Nebraska MEDS Coalition for its program to educate patients about proper disposal of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications and to provide an opportunity for patients to dispose of unwanted medication at any time, rather than waiting for a scheduled community disposal event.

If kept on hand, medications can lead to accidental poisoning or misuse. If they are disposed of improperly, by flushing or tossing, they can harm the environment.

The pilot program in Lincoln and Lancaster County was made possible by a grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality provides funding for the ongoing statewide collection of unwanted medications.

Persons interested in disposing of unwanted medications can find a participating location at <http://www.nebraskameds.org/> or by calling the Nebraska Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Nebraska MEDS (Medication Education for Disposal Strategies) Coalition Includes the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, the Nebraska Pharmacists Association, The Groundwater Foundation, Nebraska Regional Poison Center, the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, WasteCap, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The State Board of Health is an advisory body to the Division of Public Health in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

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