



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP WEEK**

**AND**

**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK SATURDAY**

**2020**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, death by unintentional poisoning continues to surpass unintentional motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death in North Carolina; in 2018 an average of five North Carolinians died per day from opioid overdose, with 27 percent of those deaths involving prescription opioids; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1999 to 2018, more than 14,500 North Carolinians died from opioid-related overdoses, the majority of which were unintentional overdoses; the estimated cost of unintentional opioid-related overdose deaths in North Carolina totaled \$1.9 billion in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, instruction on safe drug disposal is an important component of the public education strategy of North Carolina's Opioid Action Plan 2017-2021 to increase community awareness and prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, events like Operation Medicine Drop allow for safe disposal of opioids and other prescription and non-prescription drugs in a secure manner, without endangering the environment, and eliminate the risk of these drugs getting into the hands of our children and teens from medicine cabinets of friends or family, which is the most common means of accessibility by that age group; and

**WHEREAS**, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Safe Kids NC, State Attorney General's Office, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, and North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Operation Medicine Drop has collected and properly incinerated more than 204 million pill dosages from 2010-2019 through permanent drop boxes and events across North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina recognizes Operation Medicine Drop for their work collecting unused, unwanted, and expired medications and safely disposing of them to prevent misuse or abuse of opioid prescription drugs, as well as other prescription and non-prescription drugs;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 15 – 21, 2020, as “**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP WEEK**” and March 21, 2020 as “**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK SATURDAY**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fourth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.