

**HC DrugFree is keeping Howard County
In the KNOW!!!**

What's In Your Teen's Hoodie, Backpack, Or Watch?

In case you didn't read the Health Section of the Thursday, October 3 Baltimore Sun newspaper, we encourage you to take a moment to read it. Just when you thought no one could tell you one more way your teen could hide alcohol and other drugs from you, here are additional items to add to the list of devices used by youth and adults to conceal vaping -- the vaping hoodie, backpack, and Apple-like watch.

When it comes to vaping, educators and parents are battling technology, creativity, advertising, and ease of purchasing these items. If you want to learn more, search for vaping hoodies, vaping backpacks, or vaping watches. Read the Baltimore Sun article or [click here](#) for a recent Forbes article about the hoodies and other devices.

All Parents Of 9-14 Year Olds: Free Parenting Classes

HC DrugFree and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office in partnership with the Howard County Public School System and the Howard County Health Department will once again provide evidence-based classes for **parents of 9 to 14 year olds** to gain skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs.

This 4-week series will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 22, 29 and November 5, 12 at Wilde Lake Middle School in Columbia. Parents are expected to attend all 4 sessions.

To register, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GGCOct2019>. For a printable flier, [click here](#). Free workbook included. If you have questions, email Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree's Executive Director at Admin@hcdrugfree.org or call 443-325-0040.

As Of October 1, Maryland's New Laws

In Maryland, many new laws went into effect on October 1st. Here are just a few highlights related to alcohol and other drugs:

Tobacco Products: The minimum age for buying or being sold tobacco products, which includes cigarettes, cigars, electronic smoking devices or "vapes," and any related paraphernalia, was raised from 18 to 21, exempting active duty military members 18 or older with a military ID.

Driving under the influence: The penalties for drunk and drugged driving offenses are more severe. If you have prior convictions for operating either a vehicle or vessel under the influence, or if you commit a homicide in the process, there are longer sentences and more costly fines.

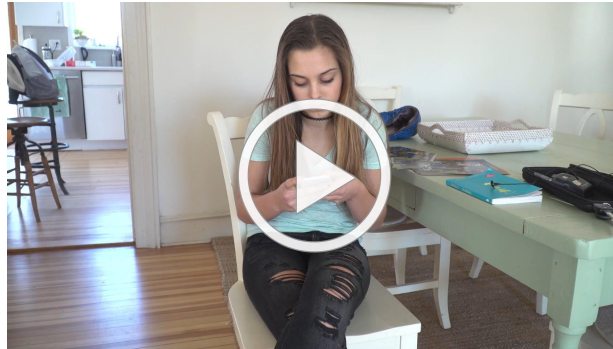
Opioid treatment in correctional facilities: Jails are required to screen all inmates for opioid use disorder and provide methadone, naltrexone and buprenorphine.

To access a list of the new laws, [click here](#).

Screenagers: The Next Chapter

Free! Join HC DrugFree, Hollifield Elementary School PTA, Mt. Hebron PTSA, Patapsco Middle School PTA and others on Monday, October 7 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Mt. Hebron High School Auditorium.

Uncover skills for stress resilience and help youth flourish in this screen-filled and stress-filled world. Click on the video below for a quick teaser.



Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER Teaser
Video

What Howard County Teens Say

At HC DrugFree's first Teen Advisory Council meeting for the 2019-20 school year, the room was filled with high school teens from across the County.

When asked how to handle a situation where a friend tries to get you to use marijuana, the teens offered the following: If you are strong enough, just say, no. If you are not strong enough, just leave. Say, it's my decision and I'm not going to ruin my life. If they keep pressuring, then maybe you can't be friends anymore. If it's your best friend, then they should understand that you don't want to use drugs and not be mad at you.

When asked what to do if your friend is already addicted and really needs help, they said: Try to take your friend out of the situation. Talk to an adult because they have more experience and know how to handle situations better. Adults have more resources like access to counseling.

We like hearing Howard County teens discussing how they could remove themselves from dangerous situations and offering each other advice and support. Encourage the high school teens in your life to join HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council so they too can learn valuable skills and resist using alcohol and other drugs.

Mental Health Film Festival - Sponsored By The Horizon Foundation

Free and open to the public. October 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Regal UA Snowden Square Stadium Theater.

The Howard County community is invited for an evening of film and discussion with local experts on mental health. Attend one of four films sponsored by the Horizon Foundation.

Each film will be followed by a time for reflection, questions and discussion with local experts such as psychiatrists, crisis counselors, social workers, youth, school system staff and people sharing their own journeys with mental health.

[Click here](#) for more information and to receive your free ticket.

High School Students Learning And Supporting Each Other

High school teens can earn community service hours through HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC). The second 2019-20 meeting will be held on Monday, October 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Barn (The Columbia Association's Teen Center) located in The Oakland Mills Village Center.

TAC is open to all Howard County high school students (public, private and home school), but students must RSVP to Admin@hcdrugfree.org for each meeting.

Registration forms can be found on the TAC page at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1/>. Refreshments are provided at meetings.

Encourage the teens in your life to join TAC where they will have a safe place to learn about risk taking, healthy alternatives, discuss what is happening in and around our community and much more. Questions? Call 443-325-0040 or email Admin@hcdrugfree.org. We look forward to working with your teens!

Positions Currently Available

HC DrugFree would appreciate your help with a few upcoming projects/events. If you have even one hour to spare, please [click here](#) to access our adult volunteer application. Must be 18 years old or older. Background checks required for some positions.

Current "volunteer" needs:

1. **Office Assistant:** Must be able to type and have good/excellent computer skills. Based on skills and project needs, some/most of this work might be able to be done from home or in our office.
2. **Driver:** Must be able to drive to a few locations in Howard County to conduct quick surveys or deliver fliers. No heavy lifting.
3. **Outreach Assistant:** Do you enjoy social media and are you creative? Do you like talking to people 1-on-1 and want to assist at our table/booth at community events/fairs? Do you have experience creating fliers, writing (i.e., blogs, other), or marketing/planning events or programs? If any (not necessarily "all") of this is true for you, let us know your experiences, skills, and/or interests.
4. **Fundraiser:** If you want to help raise money, increase/enhance partnerships, or find new sponsors to help replace reduced grant funding, please let us know.
5. **Medication/Sharps Collection Volunteers:** Help at our drive-thru medication and sharps collections held twice a year. These events are always on Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot. Next event: Saturday, October 26.

As funding becomes available, some volunteer positions may become paid positions. Volunteer now so we get to know you and establish a relationship.

Position(s) must be specified and all applications must be sent to our hcdrugfree@hcdrugfree.org email account. We apologize for any inconvenience, but sending the application to other HC DrugFree email accounts will delay or prevent a response.

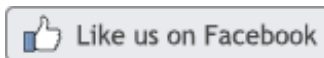
Remove Unwanted/Expired Medication And Sharps From Our Community

HC DrugFree and our partners welcome you to stand with us on Saturday, October 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our next drive-thru medication and sharps collection to be held in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot.

Medication guarded/transported by the Howard County Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Bring your unwanted and expired prescription and over-the-counter medication and sharps (needles, syringes and EpiPens). Tell others and please volunteer; we are **looking for approximately 80 volunteers** to join us that day.

For more information, go to <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1> or contact Admin@hcdrugfree.org or call 443-325-0040.



Donate To HC DrugFree Or Sponsor An Event

HC DrugFree depends upon the generosity of individuals, PTSAs/PTAs, organizations and businesses in the community to support our free services to the community. Please donate today. Any size gift is welcome. Consider contacting us to sponsor an event or make a one-time or monthly donation. Thank you for your support.

HC DrugFree is a 501(c)(3). [Donate online](#) or mail checks to HC DrugFree.

Help Is Available 24/7 In Howard County

HC DrugFree encourages you to contact Grassroots Crisis Intervention if you need help. They offer a 24-hour crisis hotline, walk-in crisis counseling, a mobile crisis team, substance use services, emergency shelter, and more. Call 410-531-6677 or go to 6700 Freetown Road (next to Atholton High School) in Columbia, 21044.

Resource Directories

Howard County has resource directories available to help you find treatment providers and other services. [Click here](#) for health services and [click here](#) for services for youth.



For more information, contact
Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Executive Director
HC DrugFree
5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206
Wilde Lake Village Center
Columbia, MD 21044
443-325-0040
Info@hcdrugfree.org
www.hcdrugfree.org



