



Media Contact:
Tiffani C. Jackson – 313.421-9192
tjackson1@waynecounty.com

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WAYNE COUNTY ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF THE 2020 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

WAYNE, MI – The Wayne County Department of Public Services today announced cancellation of two planned hazardous materials collection days because of ongoing social distancing necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The cancelled collection dates and location are:

- **Saturday, June 13, 2020** at Henry Ford College located at 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn; and,
- **Saturday, August 8, 2020** at Westland Shopping Center located at 35000 Warren Road and Nankin Blvd. in Westland.

Large crowds are currently discouraged by both the Center for Disease Control and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, as well as temporarily prohibited by emergency order of Governor Whitmer. Each event averages 2,000 participants annually

“Our annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection events are highly anticipated by all, last year we had over 7,000 residents in attendance.” said Beverly J. Watts, Director of the Department of Public Services. “We are extremely disheartened that we have to cancel this year’s events, however COVID-19 has created many uncertainties and challenges for both the County and our partners. With safety as our top priority, we cannot afford to increase the risk of spreading such a vicious virus.”

Despite the cancellation of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection events, the Environmental Services Division has identified guidelines residents can follow to assist them in continuing to do their part in protecting the environment as well as sanitation workers who are still out providing essential services. These guidelines include:

- Bagging and securely tying all trash, including latex gloves and sanitizing wipes (do not flush them down the toilet);
- Emptying all food and liquids from containers before recycling;
- Keeping recyclables loose when placing them in carts or bins; and,
- Disinfecting handles and lids on recycling and trash containers before and after collection.

County residents can download the free “Wayne County Recycles” app from Google Play or the App Store for options on how to safely recycle or dispose household hazardous waste.

Additionally, residents are urged to steer clear of using flushable wipes in lieu of toilet paper. There has been a toilet paper shortage nation-wide due to COVID-19 and many people are turning to “flushable” wipes as an alternative, however, these wipes are not actually flushable and could cause basement sewage backups in your home, and create costly problems for local wastewater treatment plants. All non-toilet paper products should be disposed of in the trash. Residents should also contact their local municipalities to inquire about possible Hazardous Waste Collection Events being hosted in their communities.

For more information, please contact the Wayne County Department of Public Services, Environmental Services Division, at (734) 326-3936.

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