



# Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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## PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

**To: Local Media Outlets**  
**From: Central Michigan District Health Department**  
**RE: CMDHD Hosting *Save a Life Day* Event**  
**Release Date: September 19, 2024**

### **CMDHD is Hosting *Save a Life Day* Event at Island Park on September 26, 2024**

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) will be hosting *Save a Life Day* at Island Park in Mt. Pleasant on Thursday, September 26, 2024, from 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. CMDHD staff will be offering naloxone and training to attendees. Our mobile unit staff will be handing out sterile supplies, as well as xylazine test strips and fentanyl test strips. We will also offer rapid HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis testing.

*Save a Life Day*, also called *Free Naloxone Day*, is a yearly event that takes place across the eastern United States. Organizers plan to distribute over 70,000 naloxone packages throughout the day. Naloxone, more well known by the brand name Narcan, is an easy-to use nasal spray that works to reverse opioid overdoses. Overdose deaths have risen in Michigan, with 2,998 deaths reported in 2022.

“We are excited to host this event, which emphasizes reducing stigma around substance use disorder and providing related resources to the community,” said Anna Reetz, CMDHD Community Health Supervisor. “CMDHD prioritizes these goals, as well – especially through our Syringe Service Program, Exchange Central.”

Access to sterile syringes is an evidence-based public health service that reduces HIV and hepatitis C infections. Exchange Central offers a place to connect with other supplies and resources, such as healthcare and drug treatment. We offer a safe place for people who use substances or are affected by substance use. Through respect and connection, we are committed to ensure syringe access and overdose prevention for all. Learn more about Exchange Central by visiting our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

*Save a Life Day* is facilitated by SOAR WV, a West Virginia based community group that promotes the health, dignity, and voices of individuals who are impacted by substance abuse. Visit the [SOAR WV website](#) for more information.

**Please visit us online at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org).**

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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*To request an interview, please visit our website ([cmdhd.org](http://cmdhd.org)) and fill out the [Media Interview Request Form](#).*



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