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## **CVS Pharmacies Selling Expired Products in Greater Newark**

### **Warning to Consumers Issued by Community Leaders**

*Montclair, NJ* – A new study released today shows 47% of local CVS drugstores surveyed in the greater Newark area are selling products past their expiration date. In reaction to the news, a delegation of community and faith leaders held a demonstration outside a local CVS pharmacy today to challenge CVS's practice of repeatedly selling expired goods.

Surveyors recently visited 310 CVS stores operating in 9 states and found expired infant formula, dairy and/or medication for sale at just over 58 percent, or 180 stores surveyed. Demonstrations are taking place today in all 9 of these states, including New Jersey.

Community leaders stood behind a table covered in expired goods recently purchased in CVS stores in Greater Newark and issued a warning to consumers.

"Who's going to play "Russian roulette" with their child's health? When one in five Newark CVS stores surveyed are selling expired infant formula, that's what the company is expecting us to do. I for one won't stand for it, that's why I'm here today to call on this company to clean up its act and stop endangering our children," said Ricky Singleton, Essex County Sheriff candidate.

### **Expired Goods for Sale in 47% of Local CVS Stores Surveyed**

In the last few weeks, surveyors found expired products at over half of CVS stores surveyed in Greater Newark. Surveyors visited 19 of the 76 CVS stores in the region, and found expired products, including expired infant formula and over-the-counter medications, at 9 of them.

"CVS claims that it has too many products in its stores to adequately ensure they're all safe and unexpired. If that's the case, I don't see how anyone can feel safe buying ANY of CVS's products. Until this company puts customer safety as its top priority, this problem will surely persist," said Bob Russo, president of the Consumers League of New Jersey and former mayor of Montclair.

Over a third of stores visited were found selling expired medications, including a package of Excedrin Back and Body Extra Strength pain reliever over six months

past its October 2008 expiration date, purchased at the CVS store at 217 Main Street in West Orange.

Other expired products found during the survey included a quart of expired infant formula six months past its November 1, 2008 expiration date, purchased at the CVS store at 20 South Valley Road in West Orange, and a container of CVS brand All Day Pain Relief over a month past its expiration date, found at the CVS at 1000 S. Elmora Avenue in Elizabeth.

### **CVS “Goods Gone Bad”**

Customers who observe expired products for sale in their local CVS stores to can take action on the issue. Consumers can go to [CureCVSNow.org](http://CureCVSNow.org) to upload a photo and submit their story to the online gallery of “CVS Goods Gone Bad.” While there, consumers can also sign a petition urging CVS to clean up its act.

### **New Jersey CVS Troubles Reflect National Pattern**

The CVS protest in New Jersey today comes as community leaders also demonstrated outside CVS stores in Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Indianapolis, Indiana; Stamford, Connecticut; Atlanta, Georgia and near CVS’s corporate headquarters in Providence, Rhode Island. Today’s actions in 9 states come on the heels of dozens of community demonstrations outside CVS stores in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit, Miami, and in Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Ana, California over the last few weeks – all over similar issues with CVS Caremark Corp.

Last June, California Attorney General Jerry Brown criticized CVS for selling expired products at dozens of stores in Southern California, saying the practice violated laws against deceptive advertising and unfair business practices. The New York State Attorney General has sued CVS to stop the company from selling expired goods. CVS’s offering expired products for sale poses “serious, even life-threatening consequences” to CVS customers, according to the Office of New York Attorney General Cuomo.

Participating in today’s demonstration in Greater Newark were Bob Russo, former mayor of Montclair, NJ.; Ricky Singleton, candidate for Essex County Sheriff; and Judy Tomlinson, Unitarian minister.

For more information visit [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://www.CureCVSNow.org)

**Cure CVS** is an initiative by Change to Win and partner organizations to reform the drugstore industry, starting with CVS, the country’s leading provider of prescription drugs and largest

drugstore chain. By joining concerned citizen groups with the six million members of Change to Win unions, Cure CVS aims to ensure that CVS provides equal access across all communities and income levels to its stores and services, offers fair and accurate prices, provides quality products and services, protects customers' privacy and puts quality pharmacy care first.

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