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CVS Selling Expired Products in Chicago

Warning to Consumers Issued by Community Leaders

CHICAGO – Fifty-eight percent of CVS stores surveyed in Metro Chicago are selling expired products, among other issues, according to results of a new survey by Change to Win that was released today. 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 Illinois.

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

“CVS's behavior here isn't just a matter of one or two bottles of expired milk. It's a matter of hundreds of products in stores across the country sitting for so long on store shelves that they may no longer be safe or effective. This is an unacceptable practice for a national retailer, and CVS should take every step necessary to put an end to it, said The Reverend Luther Holland, Pastor, Congregational Church of Park Manor, Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice.

Expired Goods for Sale in 58% of Local CVS Stores Surveyed

In the last few weeks, surveyors found expired products at more than half of the CVS stores surveyed in the Metro Chicago area. Surveyors visited 55 of the 122 CVS stores in the region, and found expired products at 32 of them. These expired goods included over-the-counter medicines, infant formula, and milk products.

Seven of the surveyed CVS stores surveyed sold expired infant formula, including a quart of Similac Advanced infant formula over five months past its expiration date, purchased at the CVS store at 200 W. Northwest Highway in Palatine.

“In the 21st century, there is no valid excuse for selling expired products. CVS has the resources necessary to make sure its products are safe and fresh, but for all intents and purposes, puts corporate profits first. This behavior is unacceptable, and Community Renewal Society is proud to be taking a stand for our neighbors and our community,” said The Reverend Calvin S. Morris, Ph.D., Executive Director of Community Renewal Society.

Other expired products found during the survey included a package of CVS brand laxative that was more than a year past its expiration date, purchased at a CVS store at

3343 W. Montrose in Chicago. A pint of milk that was three weeks past its sell-by date was observed at the CVS store at 771 Ogden in Chicago.

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 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.

Chicago CVS Troubles Reflect National Pattern

The CVS protest in Chicago today comes as community leaders also demonstrated outside CVS stores in Houston, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Indianapolis, Indiana; Newark, New Jersey; 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.

The following groups participated in today’s demonstration in Chicago: The Lugenia Burns Hope Center, Inc.; Centro Comunitario Juan Diego; Near Northwest Neighborhood Network / Humbolt Park Empowerment Partnership; Casa Michoacan; Designs for Change; Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Arise Chicago; Community Renewal Society; Comite 10 de Marzo; Congregational Church of Park Manor; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; UFCW Local 881; Chicago Jobs With Justice; Cure CVS.

For more information visit 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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