

Gloucester Syringe Disposal Program

The proper disposal of syringes protects the health of your family, community, and environment.

How to Properly Dispose of Needles & Syringes....



Black Syringe Disposal Drop Box

Gloucester is home to a Massachusetts State funded syringe disposal program.

WHERE: The black drop box is located just inside the main entrance to Addison Gilbert Hospital, 298 Washington St. Gloucester.

WHEN: Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

WHAT: All sharps (needles, syringes, lancets)

HOW: No loose sharps accepted. All sharps must be placed in a sealed rigid puncture proof plastic or metal container (bleach or detergent container, coffee can). Free personal sharps containers are available at the hospital information booth.

For info on safe handling or what to do in case of accidental needle stick see reverse side...

FOR MORE INFO: Go to mass.gov keyword: Syringe Disposal

QUESTIONS or to report improperly discarded syringes in the community call the Gloucester Health Department 978-281-9771



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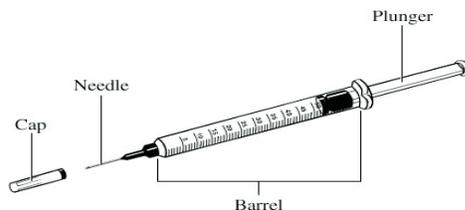
Public Health
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What are Needle Stick Injuries & Sharps?

- Needle-stick injuries are wounds caused by needles that accidentally puncture the skin.
- The term “sharps” refers to objects such as needles, syringes and lancets.
- Needle-stick injuries are a public health concern because they put individuals at risk for infection.

How to Safely Handle Needles & Sharps.

- Do not attempt to clip, bend or recap needles.
- Wear disposable gloves. They will not prevent needle stick injury but will form a barrier between hands and syringe.
- Bring container to the syringe .
- Place container on flat surface or ground away from the body.
- Handle the syringe by the barrel (middle). Use pliers or tool, if possible, instead of hands.
- Place the syringe in sharp side down. Do not overfill. Seal container before transport.



What to do if a Needle- Stick Injury occurs.

- Stay calm
- Encourage the wound to bleed by squeezing gently.
- Immediately wash the area with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- Apply an antiseptic and Band-aid.
- Seek immediate medical attention at your local doctor or Emergency Department.

Do's & Don'ts of Safe Syringe Handling

DO'S:

- Do immediately put used syringes in a sharps container (rigid puncture proof container).
- Do wash hands
- Do dispose of sharps container in Syringe Disposal located inside Main Entrance to Addison Gilbert Hospital.

DON'T'S:

- Don't put sharps containers in with recyclables.
- Don't dispose of sharps in garbage, flush down toilet, drop in storm drains, or on public beaches.
- Don't clip, bend or recap needles.



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